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This chart book presents basic data on the youth of the United States, the conditions under which they grow up, and selected facets of that process. The first section of charts indicates the relative size of the population of children and youth, and its urban-rural distribution. The charts following describe aspects of the environments that nurture or fail to nurture children and youth. Family size, composition, and income levels are shown in relation to color; income level appears as the significant variable in a number of differences. A section describes youth as they attain adult status, and educational employment trends as related to socioeconomic variables. The last section is concerned with some of the serious physical and mental health conditions that continue to handicap children and youth. (BP)

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THE NATION'S YOUTH

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CHILDREN'S BUREAU

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1968

THE NATION'S YOUTH

a chart book

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FOREWORD

This chart book presents some basic data on the youth of this country—the conditions under which they are growing up and selected facets of their experience en route from childhood to adulthood. The purpose was to present a graphic account that would be informative and useful to people concerned with programs for children and youth.

There are many vital aspects of the life of children and youth in our society that are not and cannot be adequately measured. But even concerning those factors on which national data exist, misconceptions are common. For example, because the majority of nonwhite children are poor, poverty is often thought of as an affliction peculiar to that group, and the fact that the majority of poor children are white is overlooked. In presenting data in this chart book, one aim has been to avoid or correct such misconceptions.

The first section of charts indicates the relative size of the population of children and youth, and its urban-rural distribution. It is evident that the proportion of the population in the economically productive years is decreasing, while the proportion in the preparatory and retirement years is increasing. The charts that follow describe aspects of the environments that nurture or fail to nurture children and youth. Family size, composition, and income levels are depicted in relation to color. These charts and those that follow show that a number of differences are related more to income than to color. (It should be noted that the census category "nonwhite" includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other ethnic groups as well as Negroes. About 92 percent of the nonwhite population is Negro.)

The next section describes youth as they enter adult status. More young people are now attending school and, on the whole, will go further in school than their parents; some have full- or part-time employment; and an increasing number of young men serve

in the Armed Forces. Some manage to carry on several of these functions concurrently. The record shows that this Nation has not been able to fulfill its promise of equal opportunity to children and youth. In spite of the gains in educational and income levels and in civil rights, there remain significant correlations between family income, education, and color. Children and youth of low-income or nonwhite families are disadvantaged from the outset and tend to be circumscribed by limited education, low-paying jobs, and recurrent unemployment.

The extent to which young people get into trouble with the law is roughly indicated by the charts on arrest rates and the proportion of offenses cleared by arrest that were committed by youth. The picture is fragmentary because national data on some types of behavior that are of great concern to communities are not available.

The last section points up a few of the serious physical and mental health conditions that continue to handicap children and youth despite impressive advances in medical knowledge. As the charts on infant mortality show, far too many babies in this country never have a chance to grow up. More comprehensive knowledge about the health of the Nation's youth may be expected in due time from the National Center for Health Statistics of the Public Health Service, which is now conducting a Health Examination Survey of youth 12 to 17 years of age.

A major omission in this collection of facts on youth of the Nation is information on the creative use of leisure time. There are no national data available on the participation of youth in voluntary civic, social, political, religious, sports, arts, or community development programs and organizations. Nor are there sufficient data on young people as volun-

teers working with individuals and communities on a large variety of problems in this and other countries.

The data presented here, the latest available at the time the charts were prepared, reflect the prevailing lack of systematic, sustained fact-gathering on the conditions and experiences of children and youth. Because various sources were used, the charts cover various years and age groupings.

Young people are making decisions deeply affecting their lives and the life of the Nation: what work they will do; the values to which they will commit themselves; whether to marry or not. This chart book points out some of the conditions and problems surrounding young people when they make these decisions and when they set out to meet their goals. We will need much more such information if we are to be fully effective in planning with youth toward enlarging the opportunities that will allow them to fulfill their potentials.

The chart book was prepared by Elizabeth Herzog and Catharine Richards of the Children's Bureau. Statistical collaboration was provided by the Population Reference Bureau, a private nonprofit research organization, under the direction of its President, Robert C. Cook.

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THE NATION'S YOUTH

a chart book

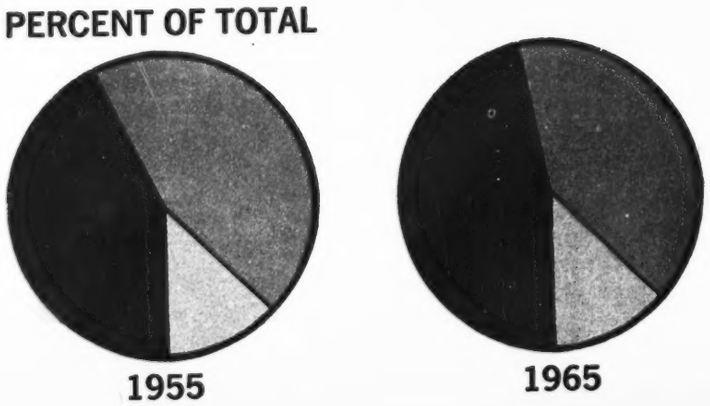
POPULATION AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Since 1955 the United States has been growing younger. The population under 25 has increased both in numbers and in proportion. At the same time, there are more people over 60. Both trends are expected to continue until at least 1975. This means that relatively more of the population will be in the preparatory and retirement years. Relatively fewer will be in the age groups usually responsible for the economic support of others.

As a result of the changing age composition, the median age has moved from 31 years for whites and 25 years for nonwhites in 1955 to 29 years for whites and 22 years for nonwhites in 1965. It is expected to be 27 years for whites and 21 years for nonwhites in 1975.

CHART 1

Almost half of the U.S. population is under 25.



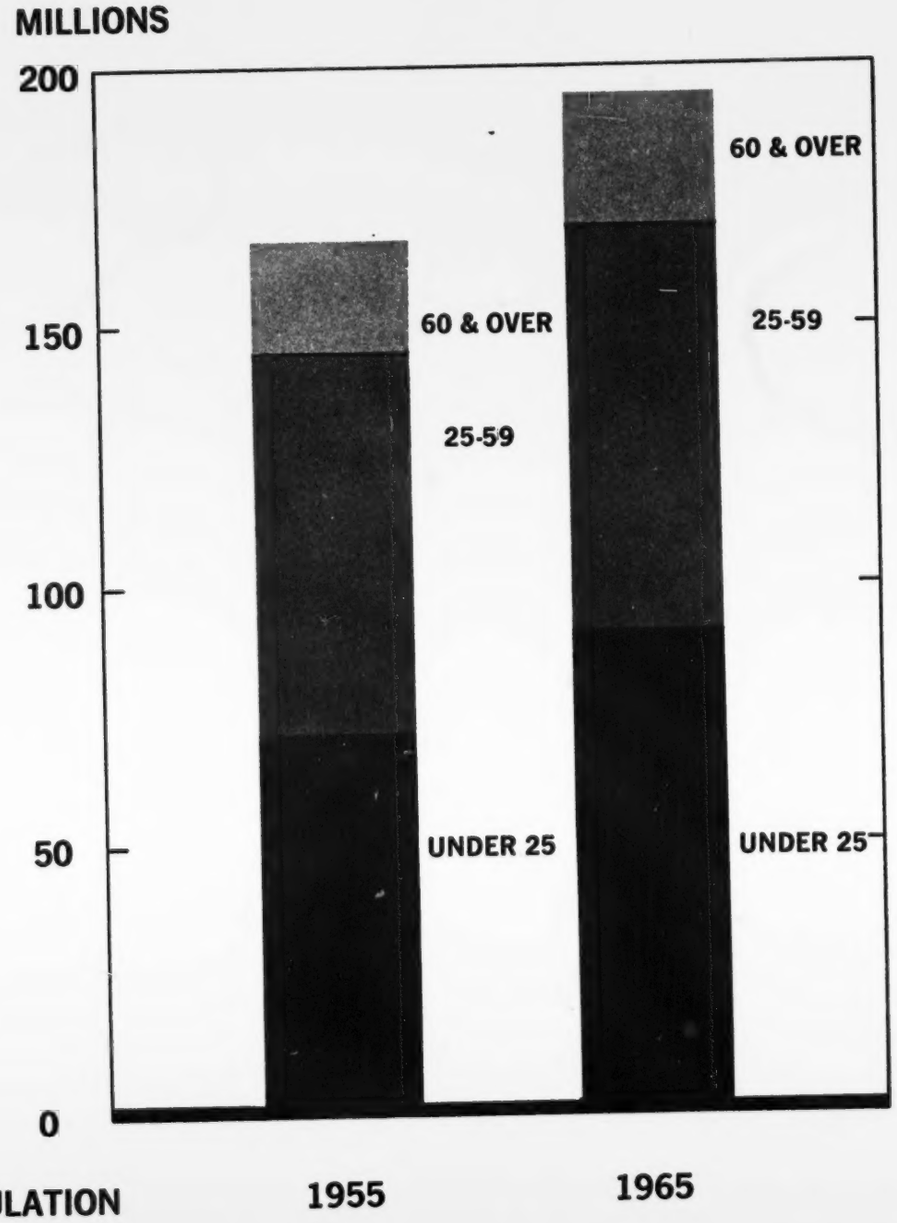
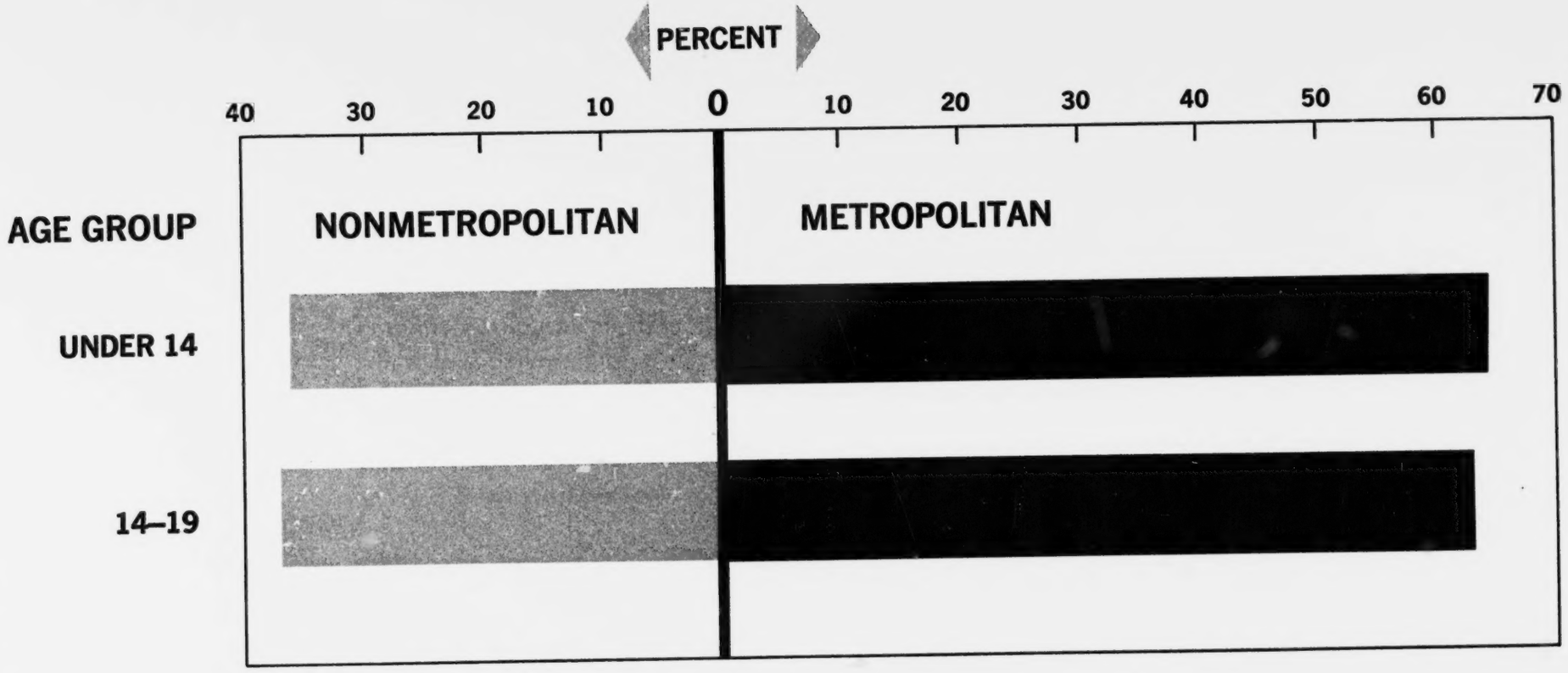


CHART 2

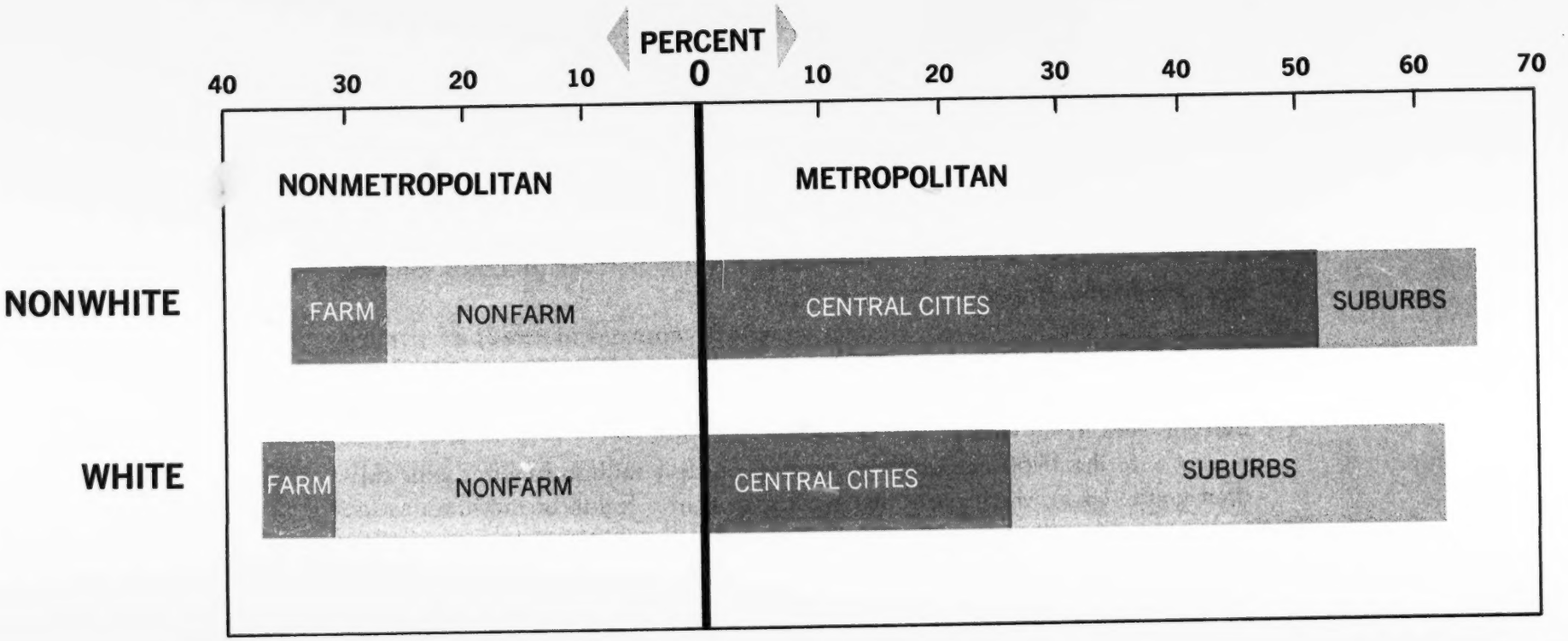
Most children and youth are city dwellers.



Of the nonwhite metropolitan population under 20 years old, almost 80 percent live in the central cities. Of white metropolitan children and youth, nearly 60 percent live in suburbs. But a larger number of white than of nonwhite children live in central cities: over 16 million, as compared with about 5 million nonwhite children. Roughly the same percentages of whites and nonwhites live outside of metropolitan areas. Although the farm population is decreasing, about 6 percent of the white and nearly 8 percent of the nonwhite children still live on farms.

Almost the entire increase in the total Negro population since 1950 has been in the central cities—5.6 million out of a total increase of 6.5 million. In contrast, most of the increase in the white population has been in the suburbs—27.7 million out of 35.6 million.

Of urban children and youth, the majority of nonwhites live in central cities, the majority of whites in suburbs.



FAMILY COMPOSITION

The great majority of children under 18 (over 85 percent) live with two parents. This represents almost 60 million children. However, 10 percent (6 million) of the child population live with their mother only and less than 1 percent (600,000) with their father only. Over 4 percent (about 3 million) live with neither parent.

Of the 45 million children under 18 years old in 1948, 87 percent were living with both parents, 8 percent were living with only one parent—7 percent with the mother and 1 percent with the father—and the remaining 5 percent were living with neither parent.

In the 1960 census, there were about 2½ million families with children under 18 in which the father was absent. In a fourth of the families the father was dead; over half were fatherless because of divorce, desertion, separation, or illegitimacy. The fathers in the rest of the families were in military service, working away from home, living in institutions or in other circumstances that separated them from their families.

Most children live with both parents — but 15% do not.

KEY:

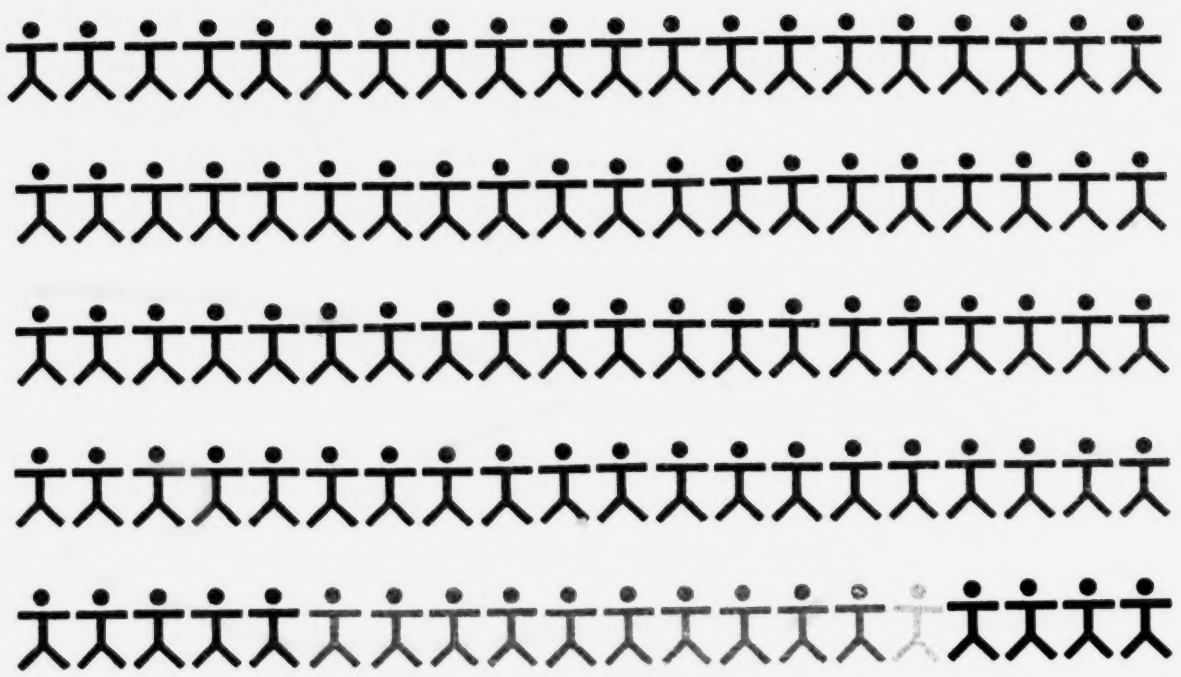
Each figure represents 1% of children under 18.

With both parents

With mother only

With father only

With neither parent



In the decade from 1953 to 1962, divorce rates dropped slightly, from 2.5 to 2.2 per 1,000 total population.* The rate per 1,000 married women 15 years of age and over was 10.1 in 1953 and 9.4 in 1962. However, the proportion of divorces involving children rose from 46 percent in 1953 to 60 percent in 1962. Over 177,000 divorces in 1953 involved children, as compared with almost 249,000 in 1962. Since more than one child was involved in some divorces, the number of children affected exceeded the number of divorces.

Marital disruption is more frequent among urban than among rural families, among low income than among higher income families, and among nonwhite than among white families.

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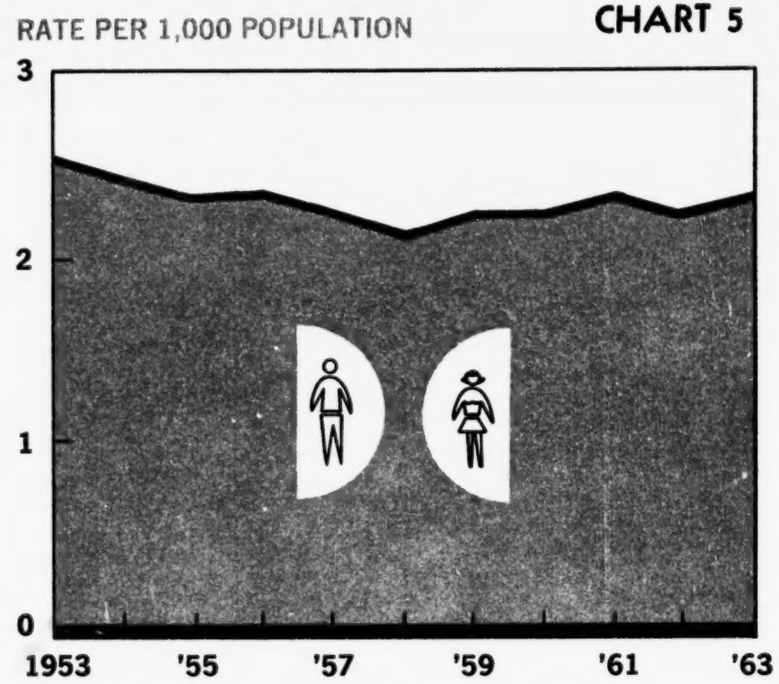
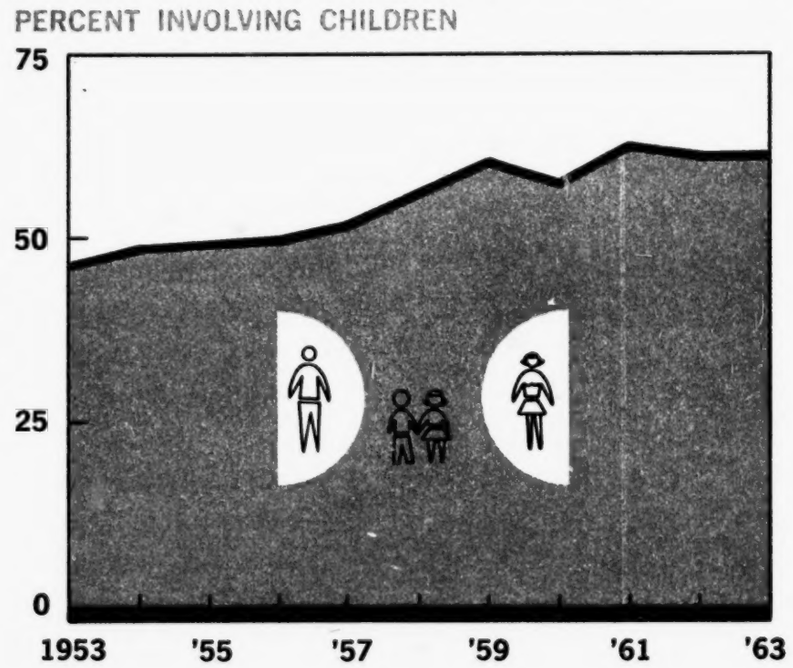
*More recent data that have become available show a slight increase (to 2.7 in 1967) in the divorce rate per 1,000 population.

Divorce rates have changed little

— but more divorces involve children.

CHART 5





Of the 306,000 children and youth under 21 who were being cared for in institutions in 1960, over half were in correctional and welfare institutions. The rest were in institutions because of mental and physical disabilities.

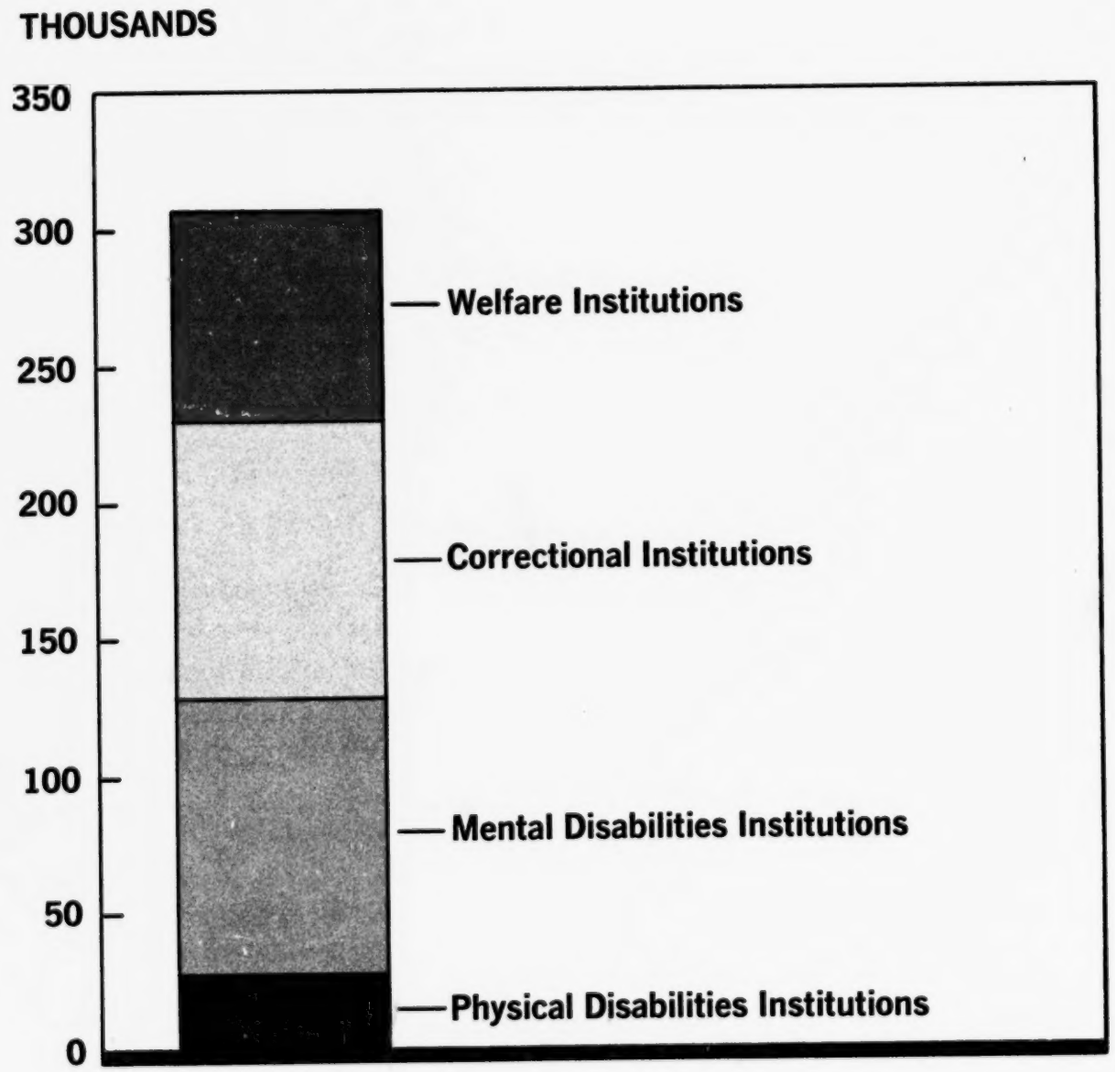
Between 1950 and 1960 the rate of institutionalization dropped slightly for children under 15, probably reflecting the increased emphasis in use of foster family care. The rate for those 15 and over rose slightly, probably reflecting higher rates of commitment for juvenile delinquency.

Twice as many boys as girls were in institutions in 1960. In welfare and physical disabilities institutions, the proportion of boys was about 55 percent; in mental disabilities institutions, 60 percent; and in correctional institutions, 83 percent.

The largest proportion of children in each of the types of institutions shown here had resided in the institution for a period of less than 1¼ years at the time of the census enumeration. Stays of 5 years or longer were most common in homes for dependent and neglected children and in physical disabilities institutions.

CHART 6

Over 300,000 children live in institutions away from their parents.

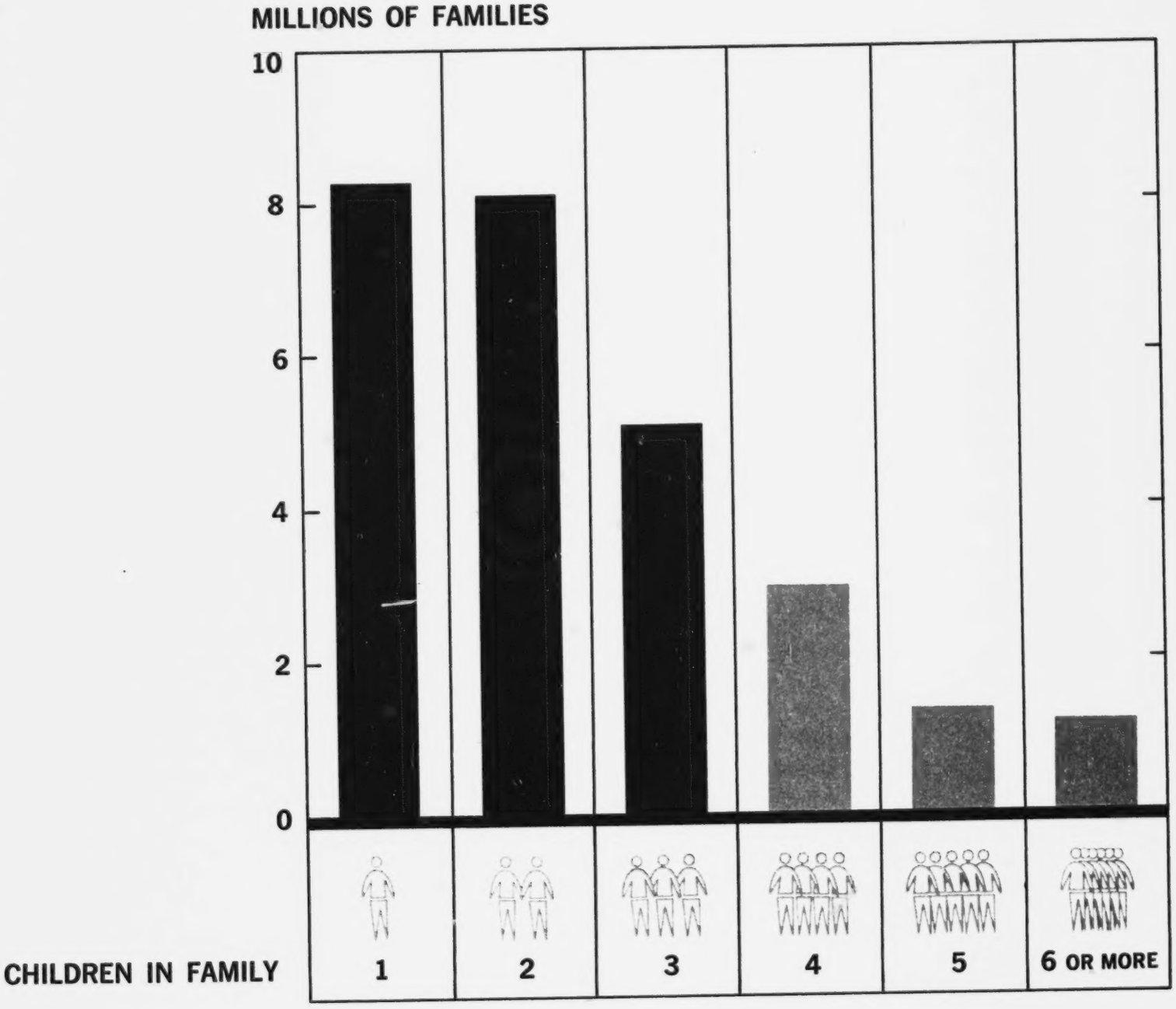


Among the 27 million families with children under 18, four out of five have no more than three children. The majority of them, about 16 million, have only one or two children. (Some 21 million families have no children under 18.)

Some of these families will add one or two more children before their childbearing phase is complete. During the years of the "baby boom" after the Second World War, the average completed family size was 3.7 children. By the mid-1960's this figure had fallen to only slightly more than three children.

CHART 7

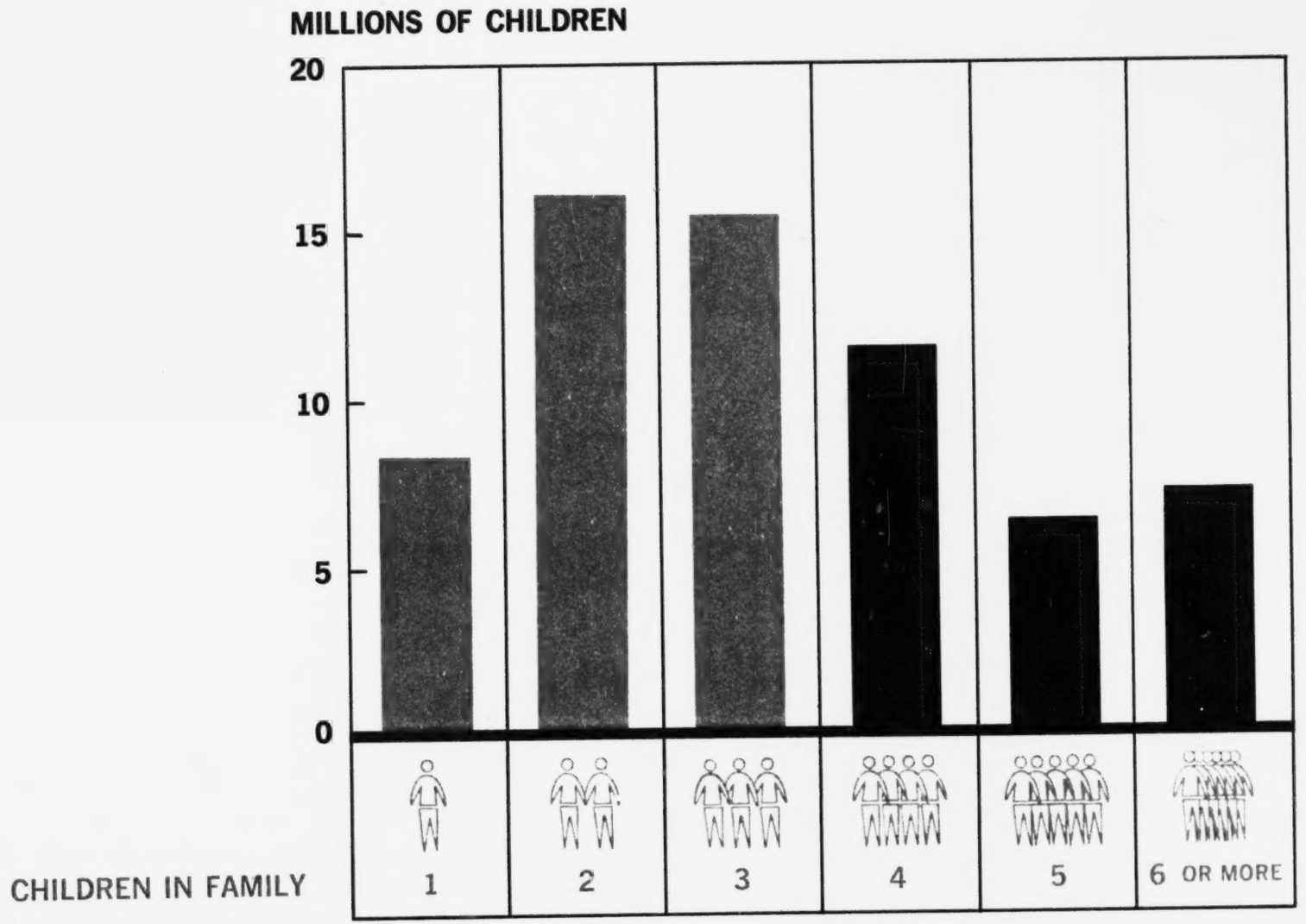
Most families are small.



Considering children instead of families changes the picture from that indicated by the preceding chart. Because a large family by definition contains four or more children, the proportion of all children living in large families is larger than the proportion of large families. Although only 11 percent of families with children under 18 years of age are large, nearly 39 percent (25 million) of the children under 18 live ir. large families. Eleven percent (7 million) live in families of six or more children. The "only" child accounts for 13 percent (8 million) of children under 18.

CHART 8

Yet over one-third of the children live in large families.



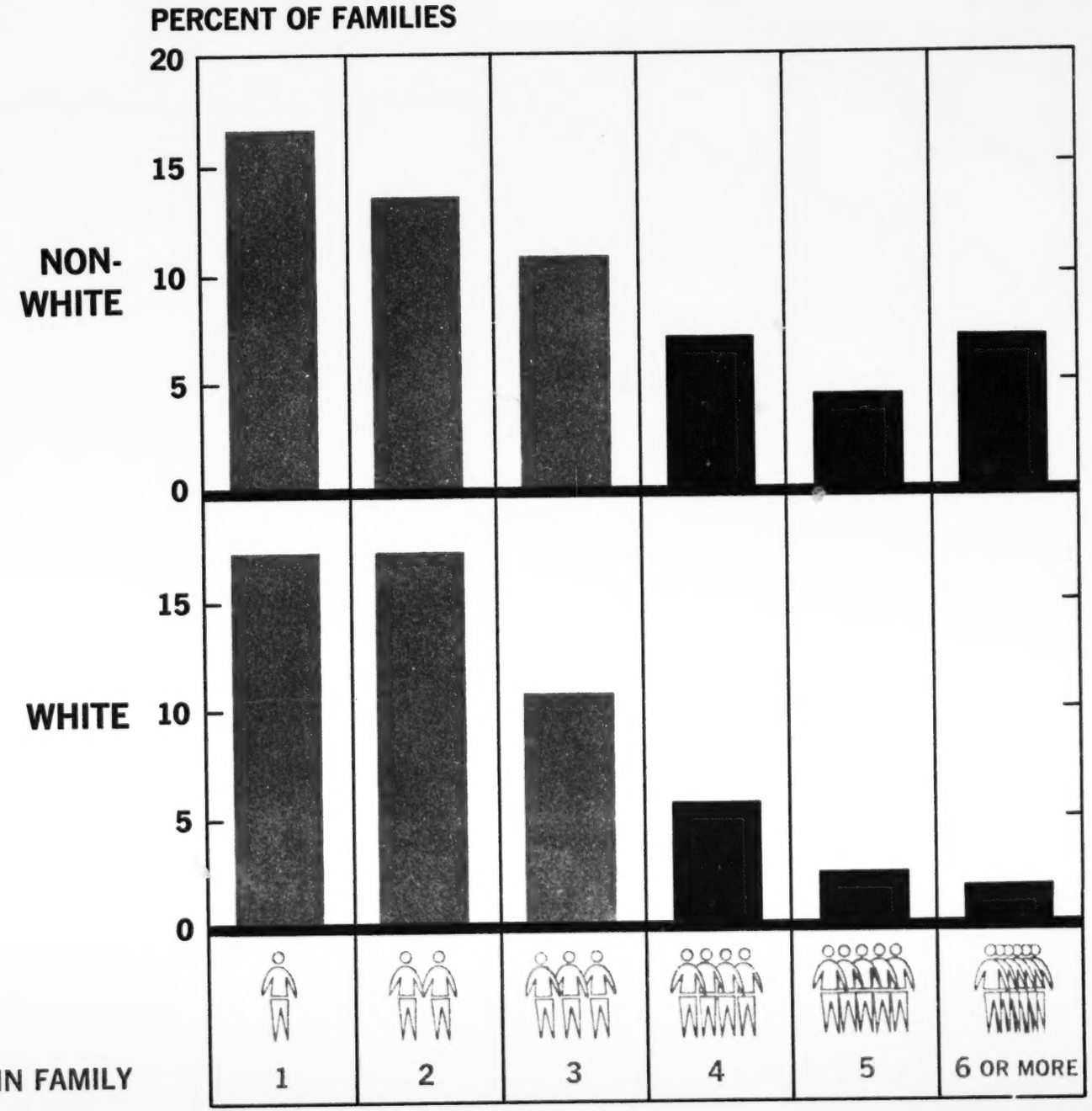
The proportion of nonwhite families with four or more children (19 percent) is almost twice that of large white families (10 percent), and the proportion with six or more children (7 percent) is over three times as large as the proportion of white families with six or more children (2 percent).

The proportion of white families decreases as family size increases. This is also true among nonwhite families, except that the proportion with six or more children is larger than the proportion with five.

For other family sizes, whites and nonwhites show fairly similar percentages. A slightly higher proportion of white families (45 percent) than of nonwhite (40 percent) have no children under 18 years of age.

CHART 9

Nonwhite families are much more likely to be large.



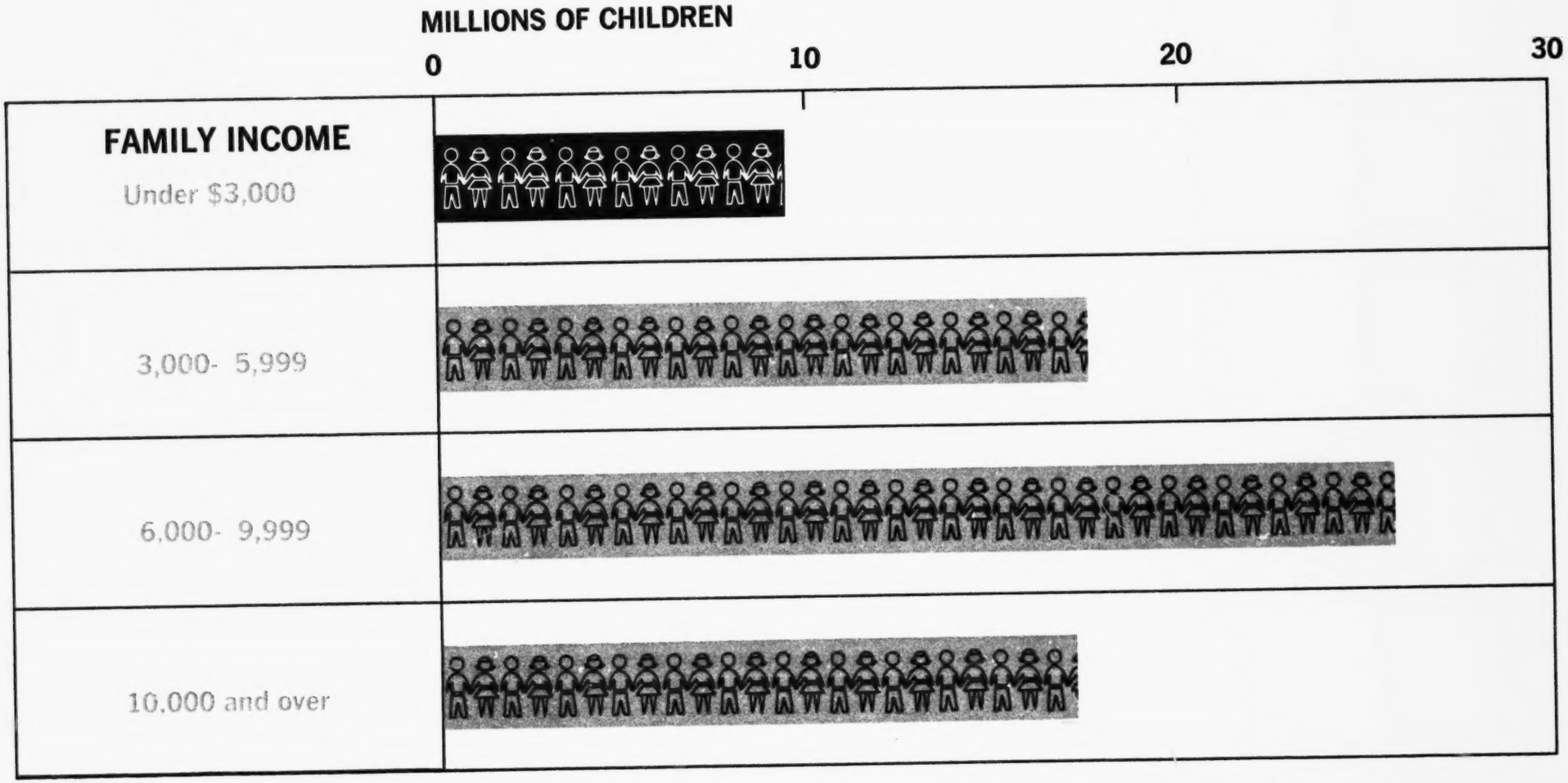
FAMILIES AND INCOME

Over 60 percent (43 million) of the children under 18 lived in families with annual incomes of $6,000 or more in 1965. Almost 25 percent (17 million) lived in families with incomes of $10,000 and over. However, 13 percent (9 million) lived in families whose incomes were below $3,000.

The 9 million children in families with less than $3,000 do not include all the poor. According to the Poverty Index of the Social Security Administration, which takes into account both subsistence needs and size of the family, almost 15 million children lived in poverty in 1964. In addition, a considerable number are in families classified as near-poor, that is, above the defined poverty level but below what might be considered an acceptable minimum. Financial assistance under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program was being provided for 1.4 million families with 4.2 million children as of March 1968.

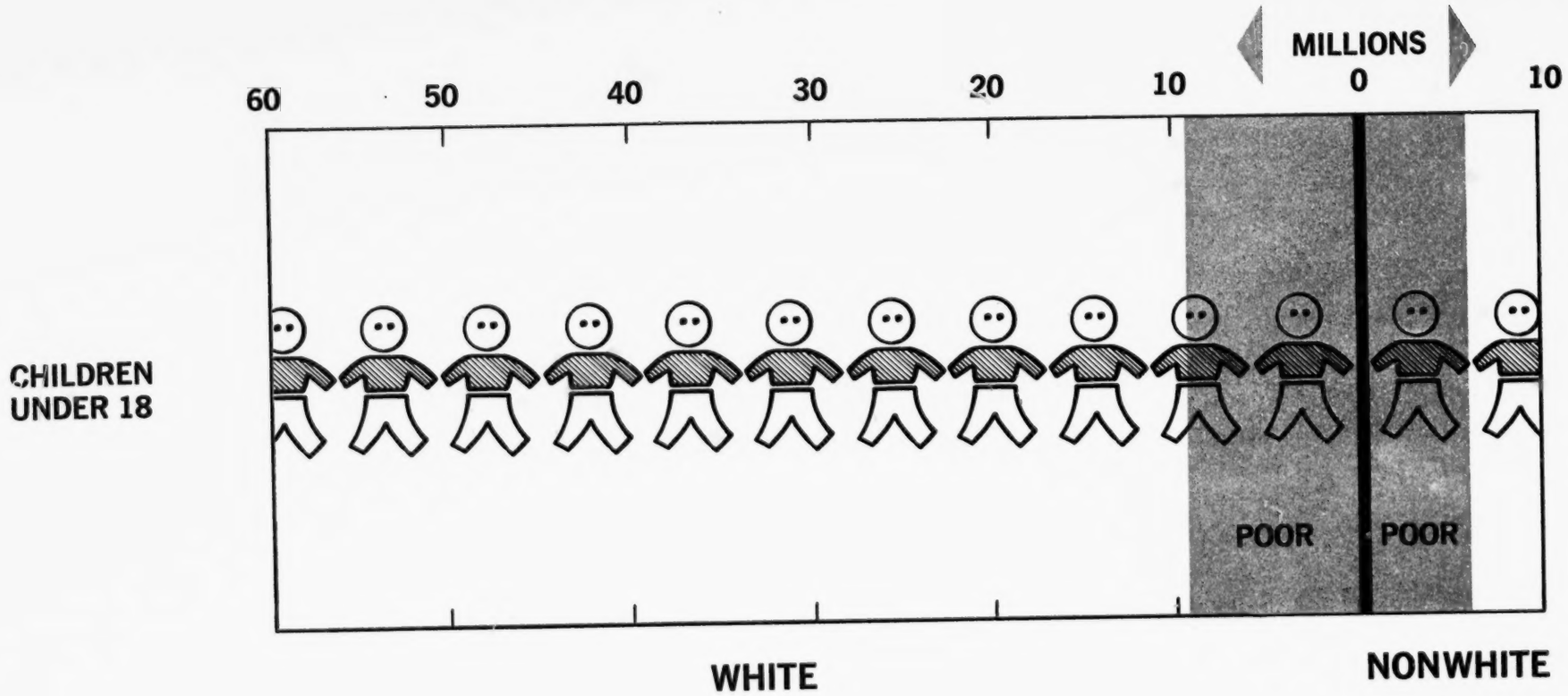
CHART 10

The majority of children live in middle or upper income families.



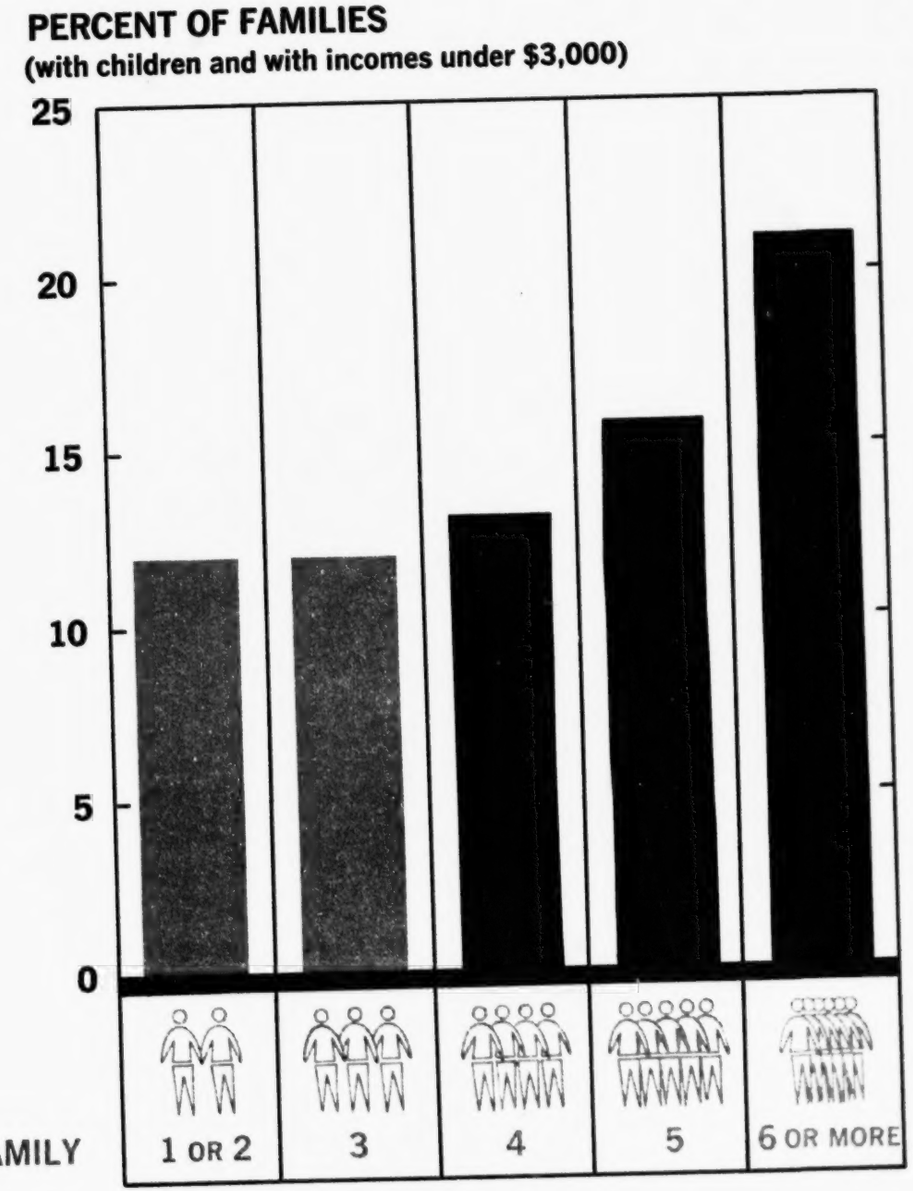
Over half of the nonwhite children under 18 in this country (59 percent) live in poverty, as compared with 15 percent of the white children, making the proportion of nonwhite children in poverty four times that of white children. However, since the white population is almost eight times as large as the nonwhite population, the number of white children classified as poor is larger than the number of poor nonwhite children—about 9 million as compared with about 6 million. The paradox of numbers versus proportions sometimes obscures the fact that the white children in poverty outnumber the nonwhite.

The majority of nonwhite children are poor and the majority of poor children are white.



Twenty-one percent of all families with six or more children have an annual income under $3,000. In contrast, 12 percent of the families with less than three children fall in this group. The annual per capita income of a family with six children and two parents and with total family income of $3,000 a year would be $375—about $1 a day. Such incomes must be compared with the national median of $7,110 for all families with children under 18 years of age.

Large families are more likely to be poor.

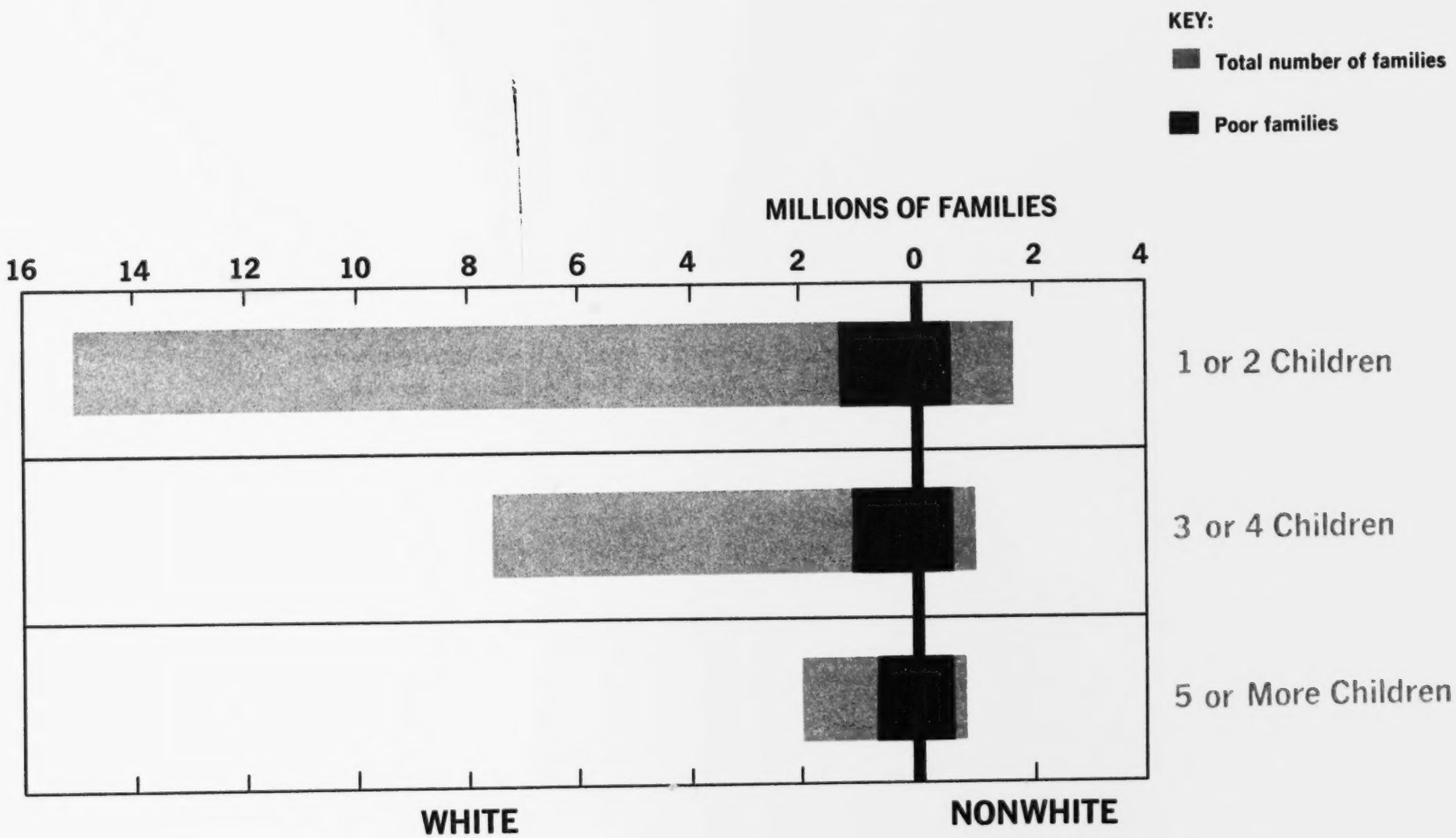


Only 24 percent of nonwhite families with five or more children are above the poverty line (the Poverty Index of the Social Security Administration). The number of nonwhite families in poverty is virtually the same for each family size (500,000). However, this number in poverty accounts for 76 percent of the nonwhite families with five or more children, compared with 32 percent of those with one or two children.

If we compare white with nonwhite families of the same size, the percentage of nonwhite families in poverty is much larger than the percentage of white families in poverty. If we compare families of different sizes, the percentage in poverty among families with five or more children is at least twice as large as among families with one or two children. In the first two family-size groups shown in the chart, the number of white families in poverty is more than double the number of nonwhite families. For the largest family-size group, the numbers in poverty are very similar: 600,000 white and 500,000 nonwhite families.

CHART 13

Families that are both large and nonwhite run double risk of poverty.

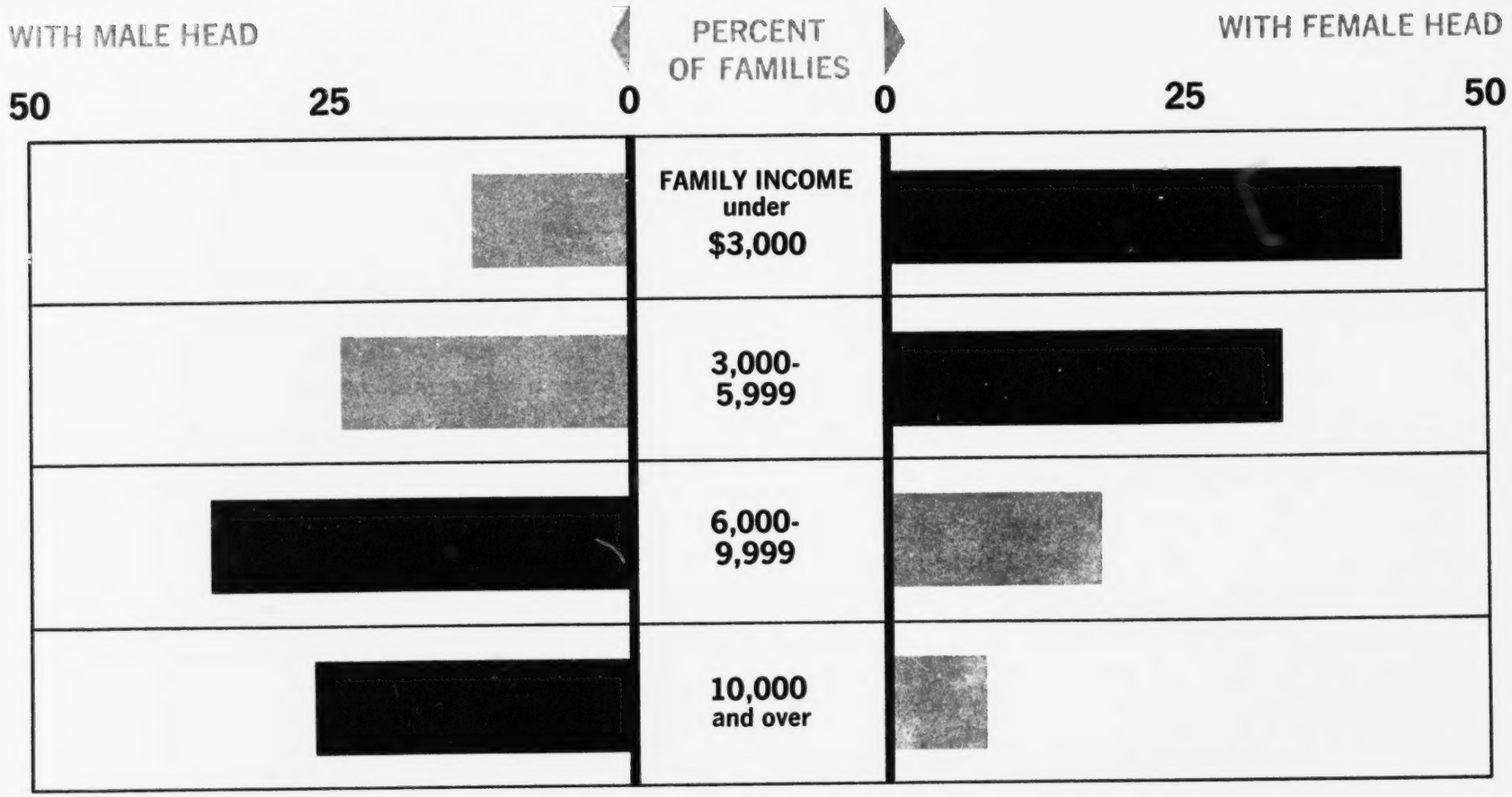


The majority (75 percent) of families headed by a woman have a yearly income under $6,000. Only 8 percent have an annual income of $10,000 or more. But 27 percent of the families headed by a man have a yearly income of at least $10,000. Family incomes under $3,000 are three times as frequent among female-headed families (42 percent) as among male-headed families (14 percent).

In 1962 about 80 percent of the 627,000 widows with children under 18 were receiving survivor benefits under Social Security. The total yearly income of these beneficiary families averaged $3,570. The average benefit ranged from $1,373 for one-child families to $2,253 for those with three or more children. Three-fifths of the mothers worked. The percentage in the labor force was twice that of married women with husbands present.

CHART 14

Families headed by a woman have less income.

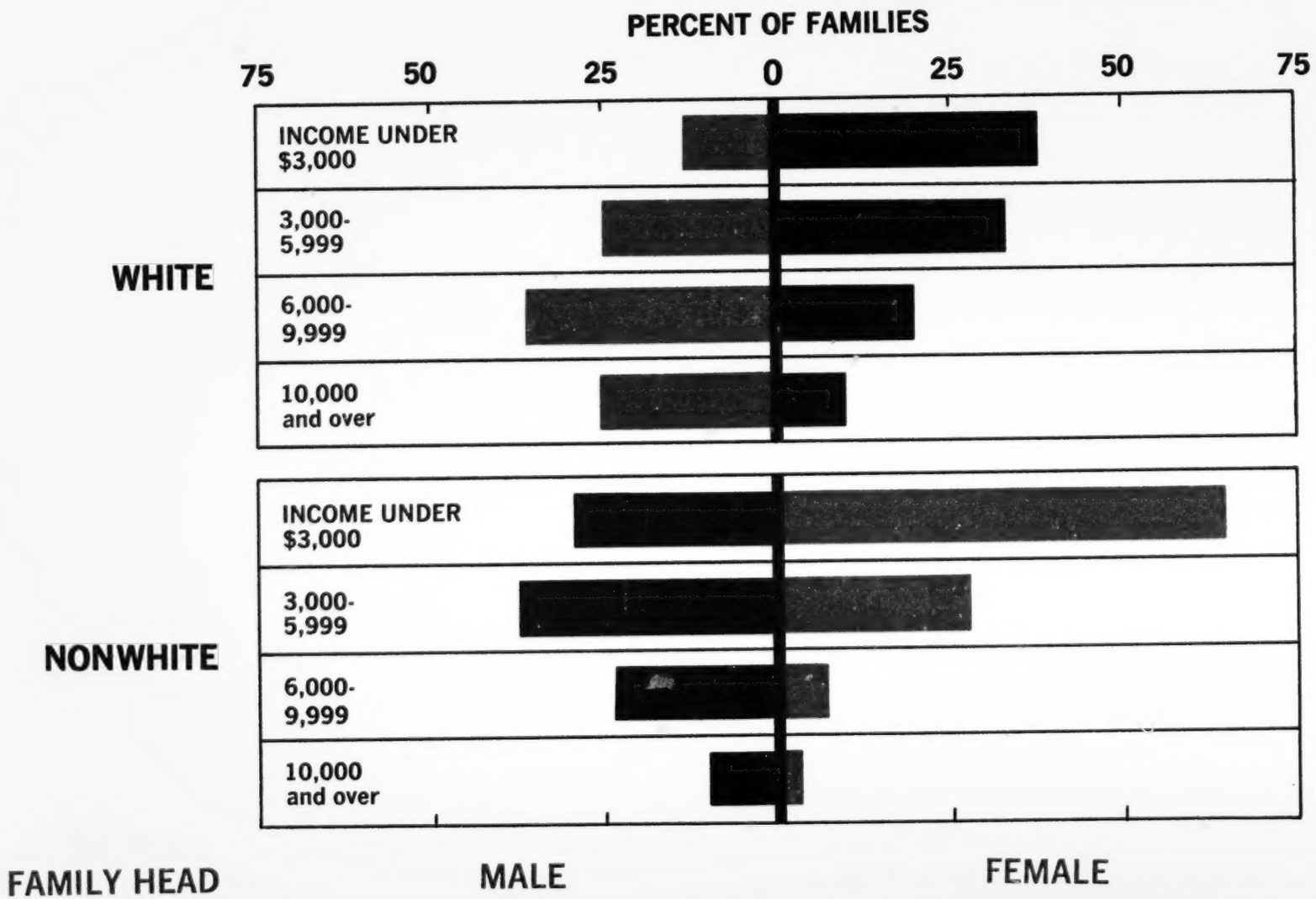


Two out of three nonwhite families headed by a woman have incomes under $3,000. Nine out of ten have incomes under $6,000. In contrast, almost two out of three families headed by a white man have $6,000 or more income a year, and one in four have $10,000 or more. Fewer than one in eight have incomes under $3,000.

The greatest income similarity is between white families headed by a woman and nonwhite families headed by a man. In each of these groups, a substantial majority has less than $6,000 a year and less than one-third has $6,000 or more. A slightly larger proportion of white families headed by a woman than of nonwhite families headed by a man have incomes under $3,000. However, nonwhite families headed by a man are far more likely to have two wage earners.

CHART 15

Nearly two-thirds of nonwhite families headed by a woman are poor.

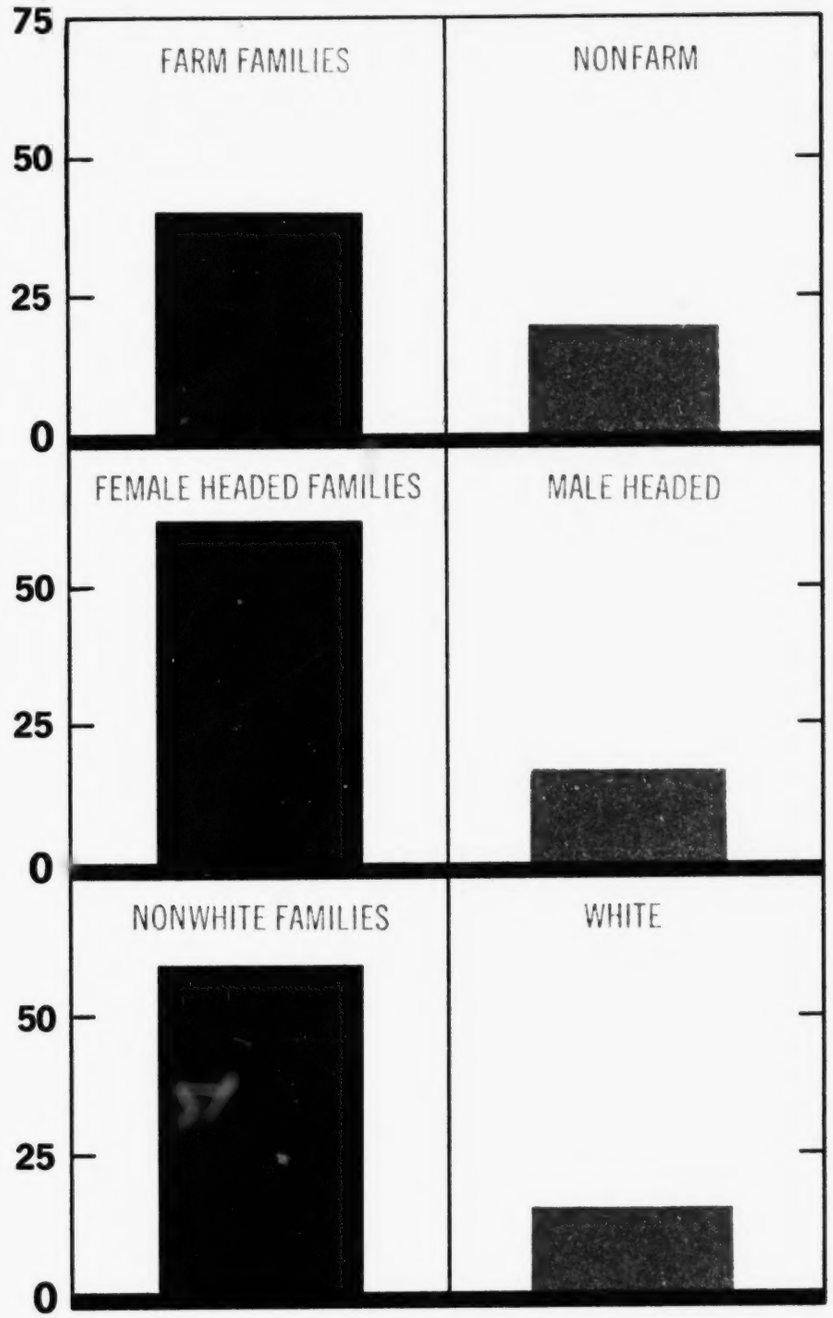


The percentage of children who are in poor families is about four times as high for families headed by a woman as for families headed by a man. Similarly, the percentage is almost four times as high for nonwhite families as for white families. The percentage of poor children in farm families is over twice the percentage in nonfarm families; about 40 percent of the children in farm families are growing up in poverty. These include the children of migrant workers, many of whom—even those 10–13 years old—work in the fields. About one-half million of the rural poor are Spanish-Americans (400,000) and Indians (200,000).

Most vulnerable to poverty: farm families, nonwhite families, and families headed by a woman.

CHART 16

PERCENT OF CHILDREN CLASSIFIED AS POOR

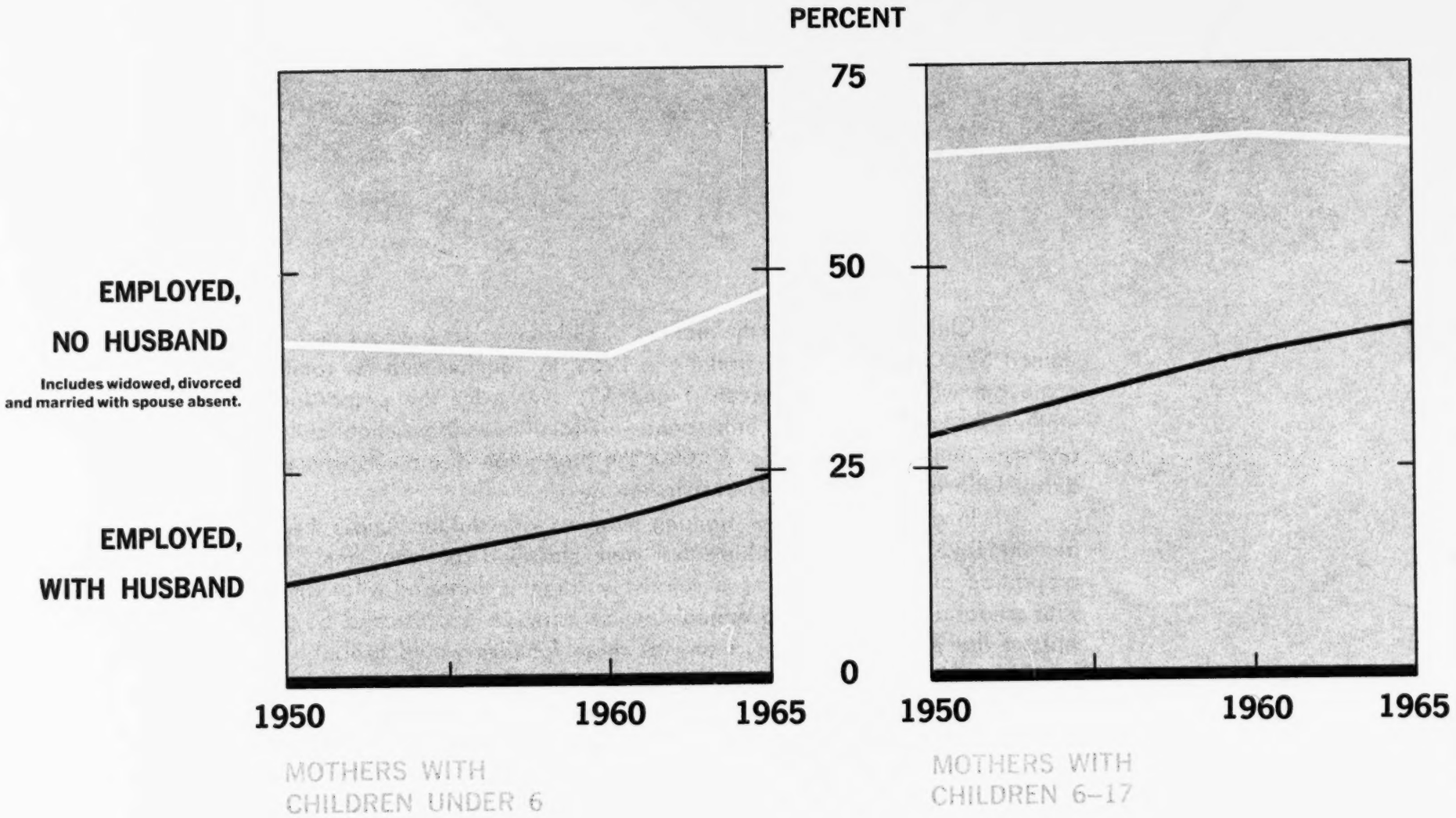


WORKING MOTHERS AND CHILD CARE

One-third of all mothers with children under 18 are working now, compared with only one-fifth in 1950. The sharpest proportional increase in working mothers is in families with two wage earners. From 1950 to 1965, the proportion of working wives in families with children under 6 nearly doubled; in families with school-age children it rose from 28 to 43 percent.

Among women who are family heads, the proportion of working mothers has changed relatively little over the last 15 years, but it is still much higher than the proportion in husband-wife families. Even when there is no husband in the home, mothers of very young children are less likely to work than mothers of school-age children (48 vs. 65 percent).

More families today have two wage earners.

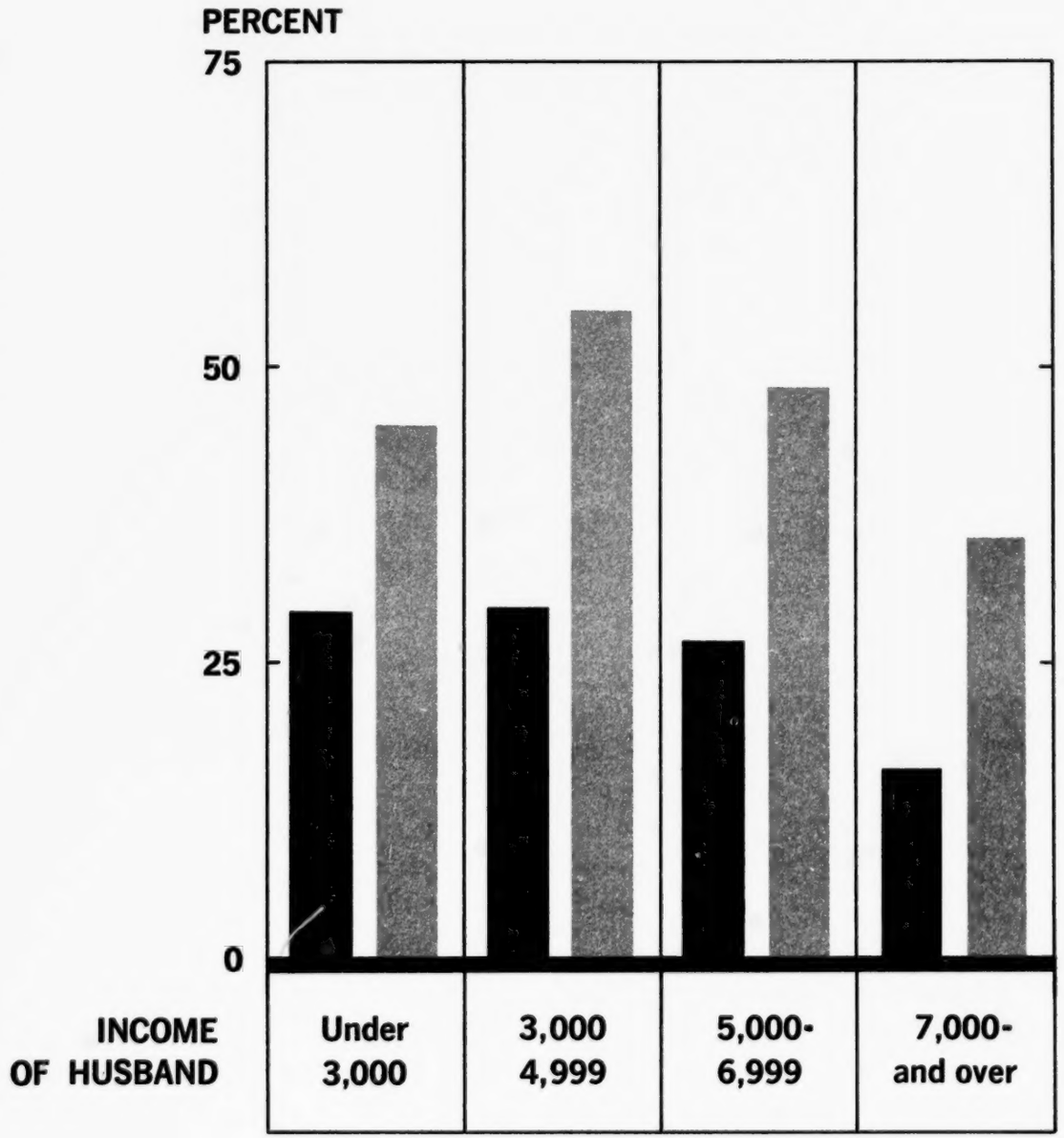


Only 15 percent of the mothers of children under 6 whose husbands earned $7,000 or more were working in 1965. In families with the same income but with children between 6 and 17, over twice the proportion of mothers worked (34 percent). In husband-wife families with preschool children and with annual income under $7,000, the proportion of mothers who work differs little from one income level to the next.

In a 1965 survey of working mothers with children under 14, 86 percent gave reasons for working that were classified as "economic." The proportion of working mothers is relatively large in husband-wife families with school-age children and annual income between $3,000 and $5,000; without the mother's earnings, many of these families would probably be below the $3,000 level. Of course, some working wives have husbands who are not working. A greater proportion of unemployed than of employed husbands had wives in the labor force, according to a Special Labor Force Report for 1965.

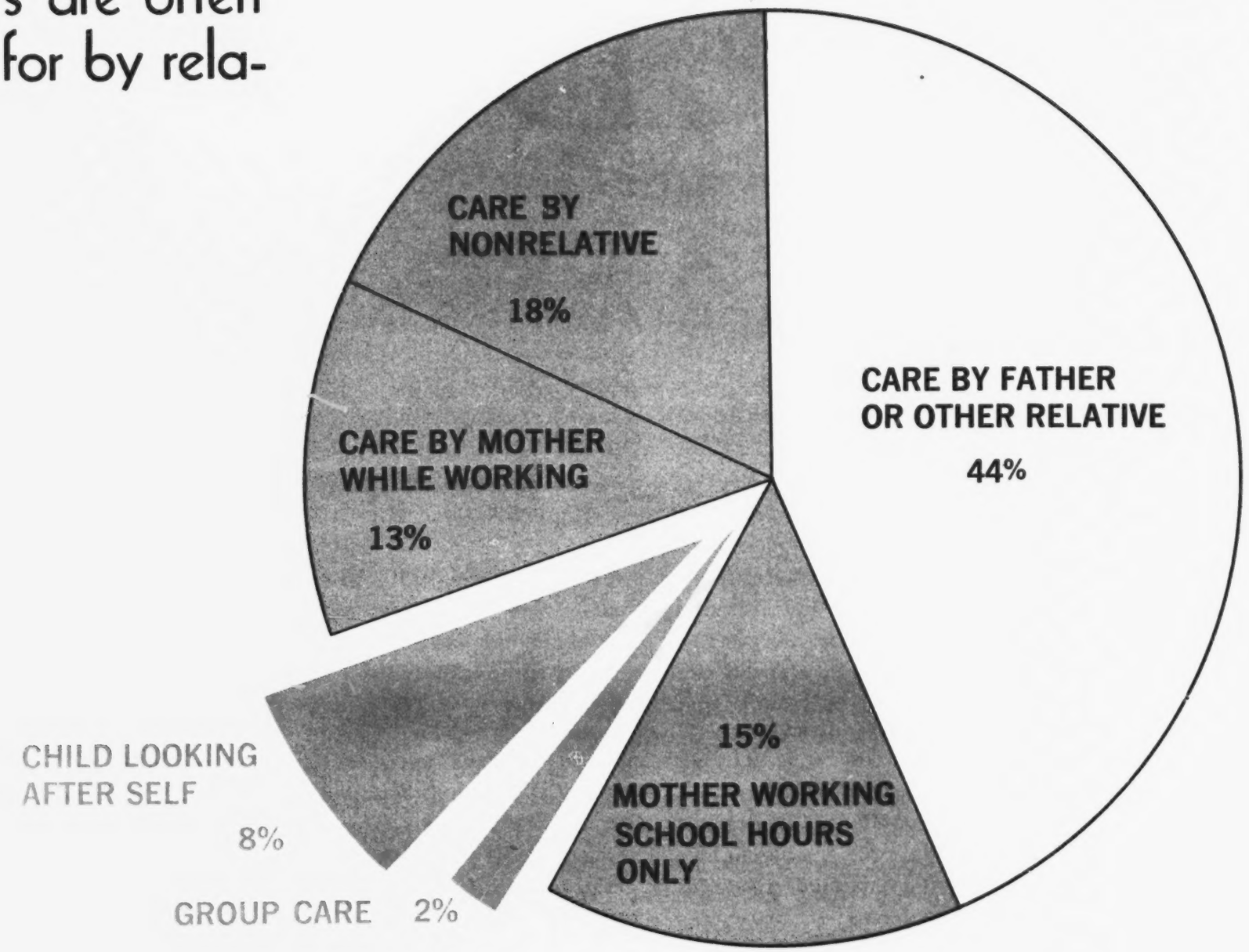
CHART 18

Mothers of young children are less likely to be employed.



One-fifth of children under 14 years old (about 12 million) had mothers who worked outside the home in 1964. Approximately 44 percent are cared for by some relative over 18. About 15 percent have mothers who work only while they are in school. However, almost 1 million children (8 percent) take care of themselves while their mothers work. This is four times the proportion in group care (2 percent). Most of the children "on their own" are over 6 and most of those in group care are under 6. The mothers most likely to care for the child while they are working are in very low-income families (under $3,000) and those most likely to work only during school hours are in families with income above $10,000.

Children of working mothers are often cared for by relatives.

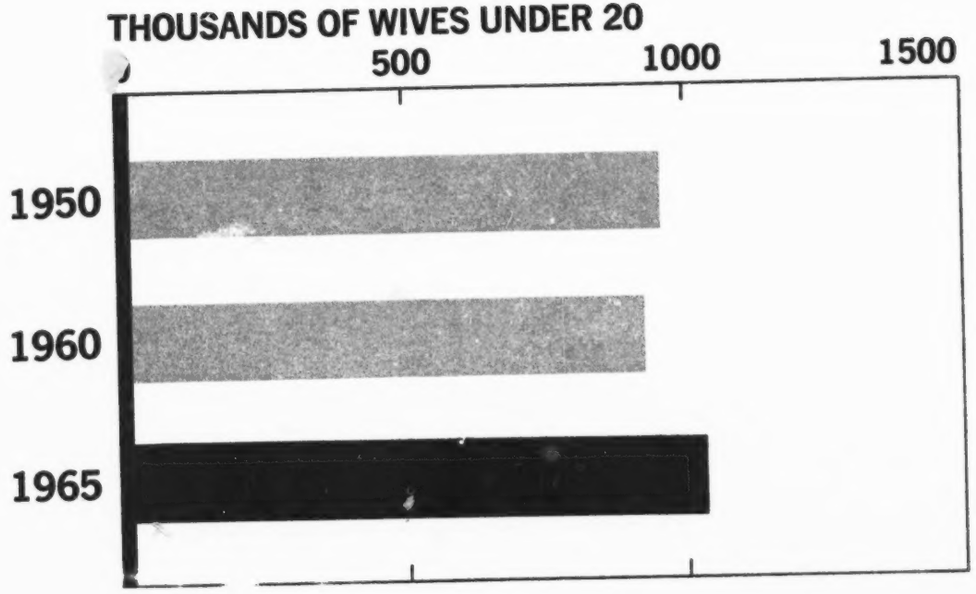


TEENAGE MOTHERS, MARRIED AND UNMARRIED

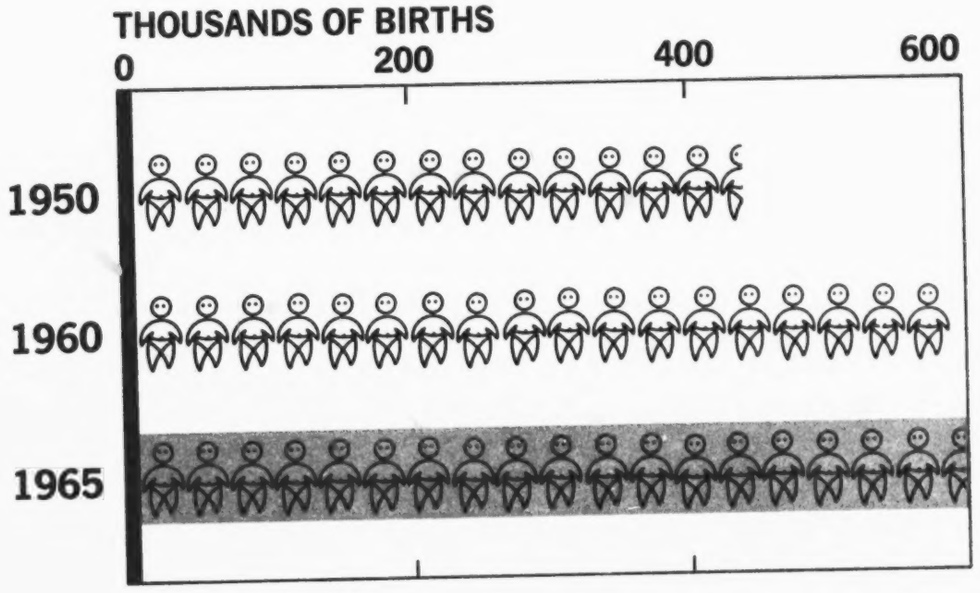
Because of the baby boom in the 1950's, the population in the late teens is now increasing. Accordingly, the number of teenage marriages has been increasing and will probably continue to do so, even though the proportion of teenagers who marry appears to have decreased slightly. The number of births to teenage girls may continue to increase, even though the overall birth rate has been decreasing.

On the other hand, it is possible that newly married young people will both postpone childbearing and have fewer children. According to the Population Reference Bureau, the most popular age for a woman to have her first child has now gone from 19 to 20. There are also some signs that young people today are planning smaller families than their elders.

More teenagers mean more teenage brides.



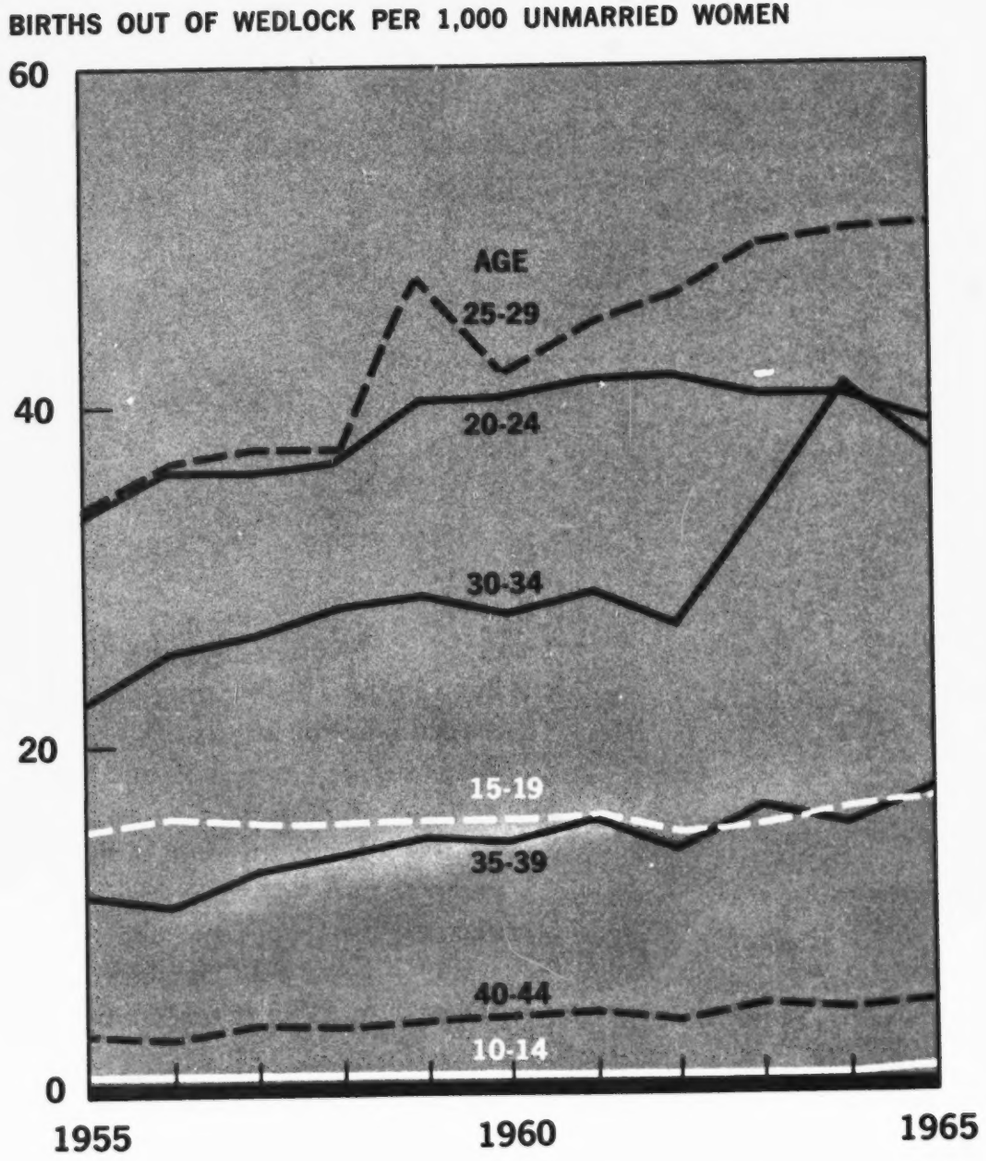
And more babies born to teenage mothers.



The illegitimacy rate—that is, the births out of wedlock per 1,000 unmarried women—has remained relatively stable for women between 15 and 19. In the period 1956-65, it rose 1 point, from 15.7 to 16.7. For those under 15, there has been virtually no change in rate. The illegitimacy rate for all ages also remained relatively stable in those years, oscillating between 20.9 and 23.4. The only significant increase has been among women 25 and over, whose rate is far higher than the rate for younger women.

The rate varies with income as well as with age, being much higher among the poor than among the affluent. It is higher among the nonwhites than among the whites, though there is some question about how much of this difference would remain if each income group were considered separately.

The teenage illegitimacy rate has changed little in a decade.



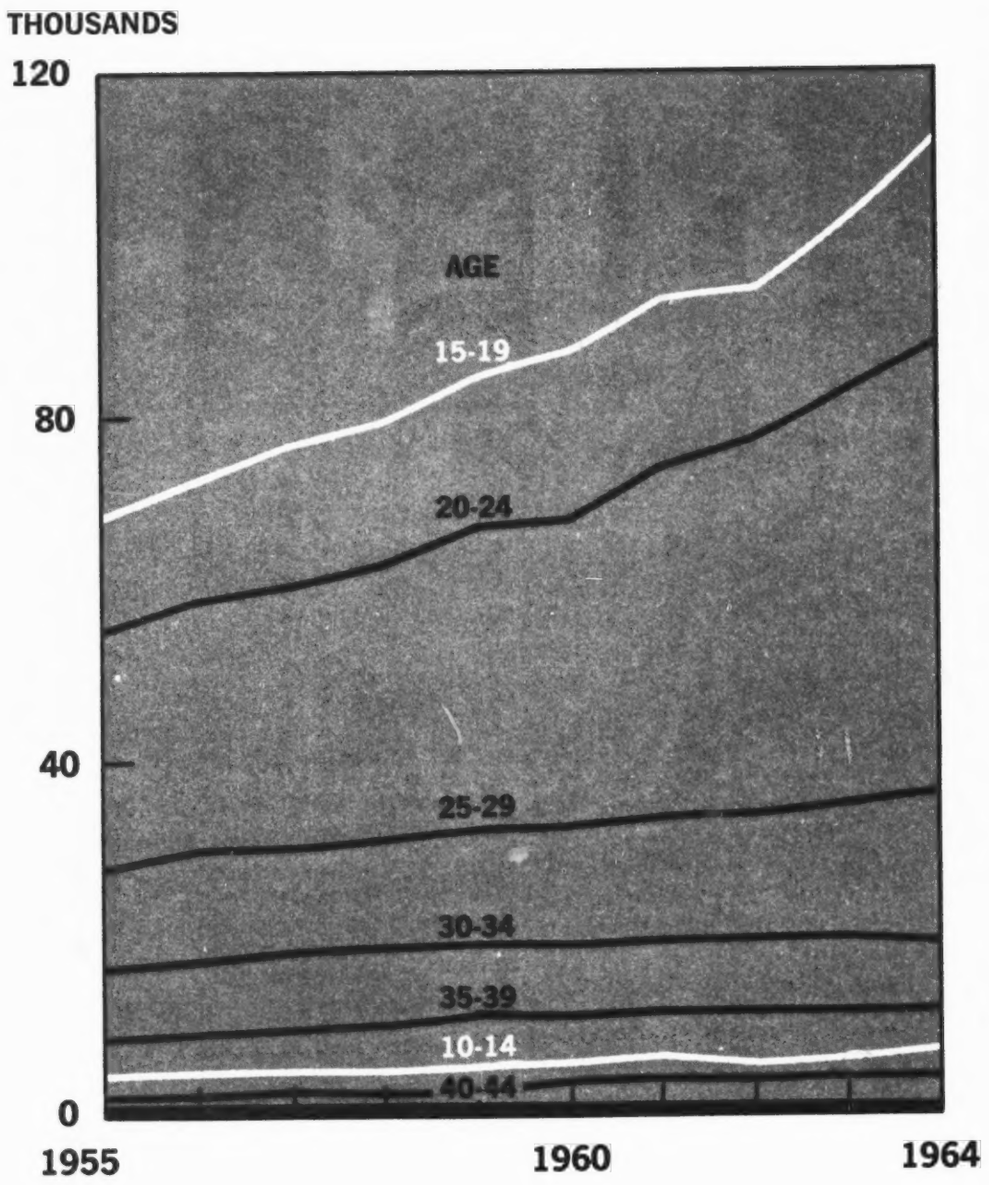
Numerically, the biggest increase in births out of wedlock has been in the 15–19 age group, which has had a negligible rise in rate, as the preceding chart shows. The age group with the biggest increase in rate, the 25-and-over group, has had very little increase in numbers of births out of wedlock.

There are more births out of wedlock to women between 15 and 19 years of age than to women in any other 5-year age group. Basically this is because there are more unmarried women in this group than in any other.

Over half the births out of wedlock in 1965 were nonwhite (58 percent). In 1955 it was 65 percent.

CHART 22

The number of births out of wedlock to teenage mothers has increased greatly in a decade.

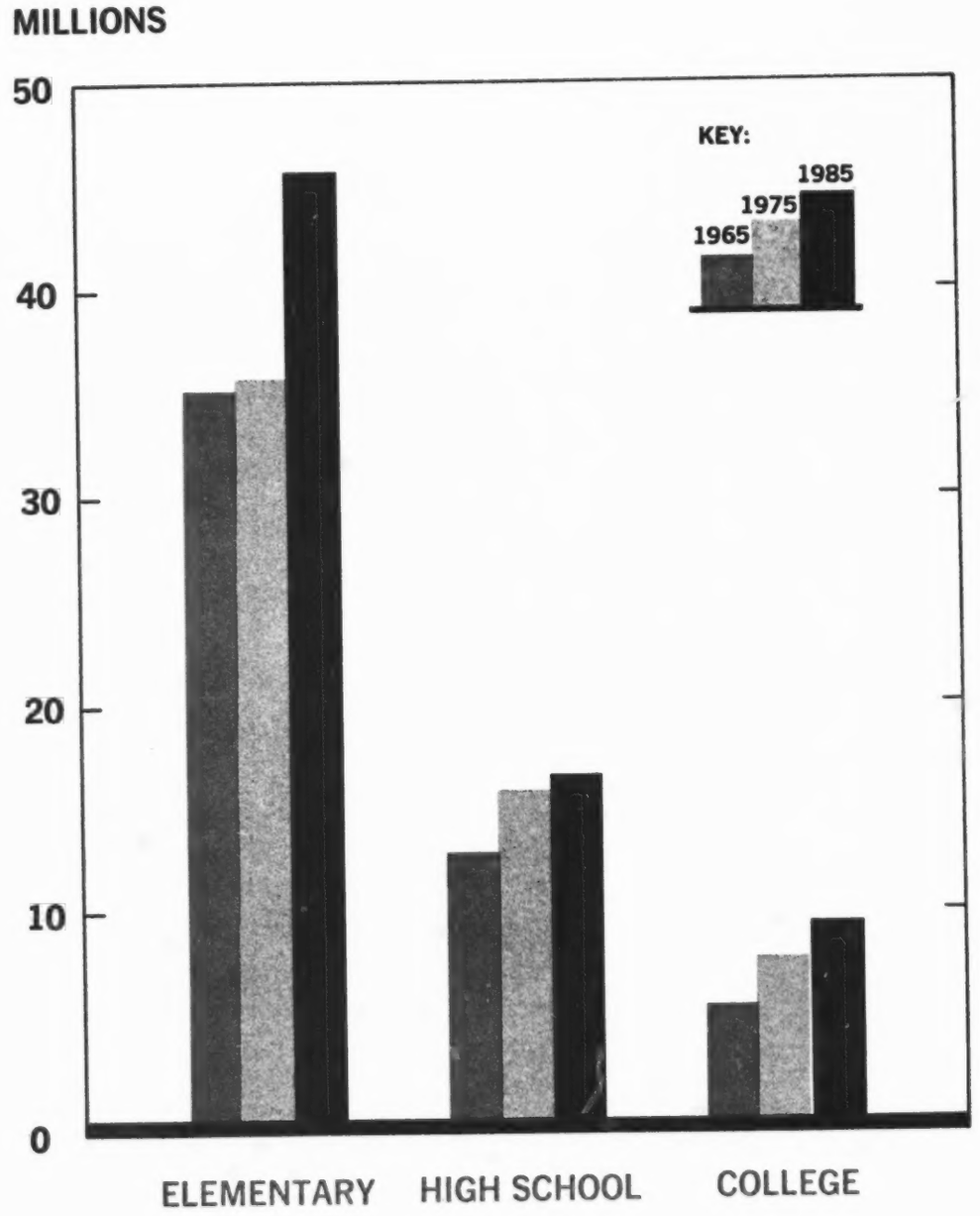


EDUCATION

Projected school enrollments show an increase at all levels of education. Numerically, the increase in elementary school enrollment is expected to be larger than the high school and college increase, and to be larger in the decade before 1975 than in the following one. Proportionately, however, the increase in enrollment between 1965 and 1985 will be highest at the college level (66 percent). High school enrollment will be up 26 percent, and elementary school enrollment will increase by 31 percent. Total school enrollment will increase by 34 percent.

CHART 23

School enrollment will reach 72 million by 1985.

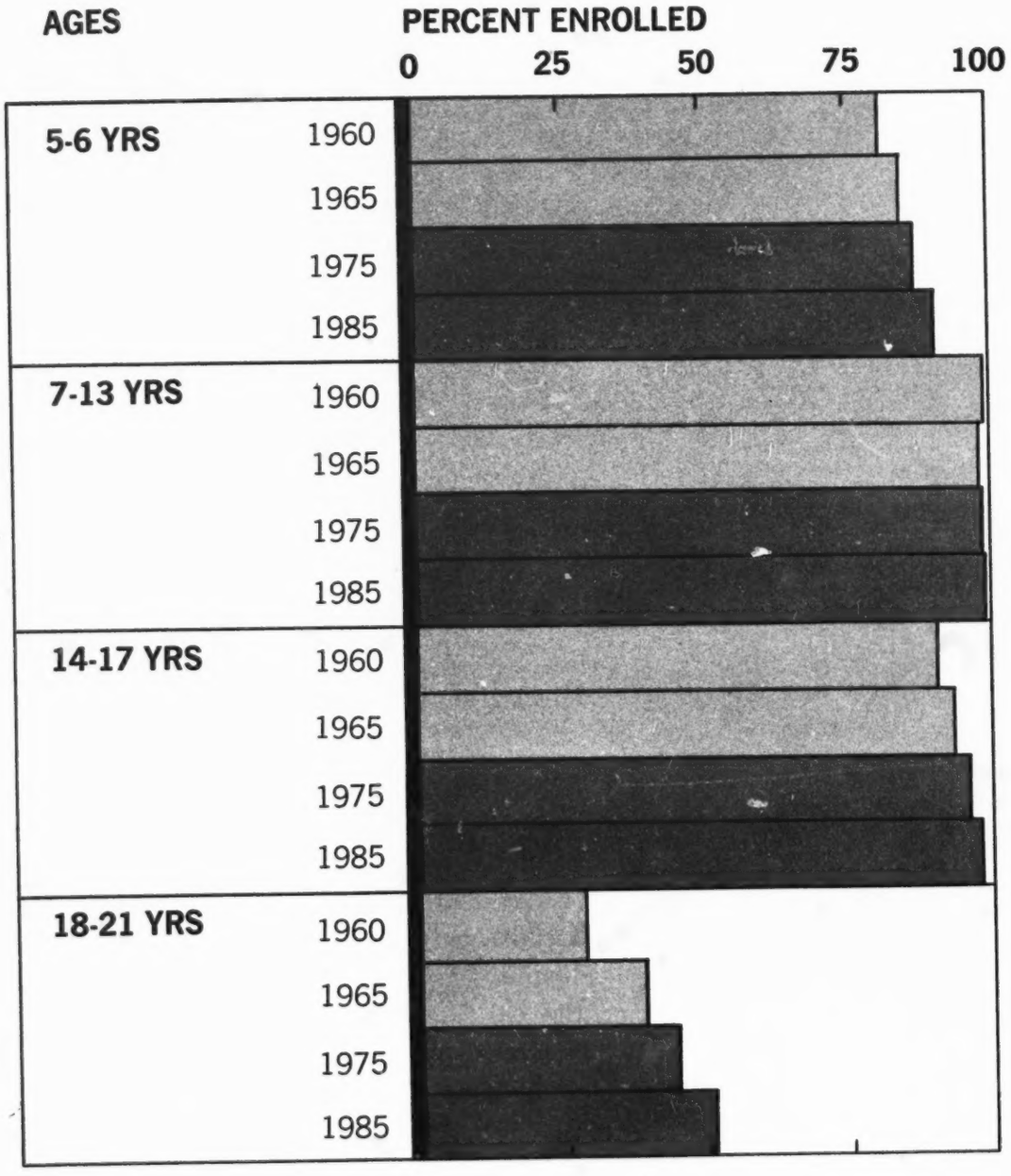


By 1985, nearly all of the young people 7–17 years old will be in school. Half of the 18–21 year olds are expected to be enrolled, some still in high school. The proportion of the 18–21 age group remaining in school will have increased by 80 percent since 1960.

The proportion of young people enrolled in college has risen every year since 1951. Still, in 1985 one-half of the 18–21 age group will not be getting a college education, while an increasing proportion of jobs call for a college degree. Moreover, college enrollment varies greatly among socio-economic groups. For example, more than twice as many high school graduates from households headed by white-collar workers (63 percent) as graduates from households headed by manual and service workers (29 percent) or from households headed by farmers or farm laborers (27 percent) were enrolled in college in the fall of 1960.

CHART 24

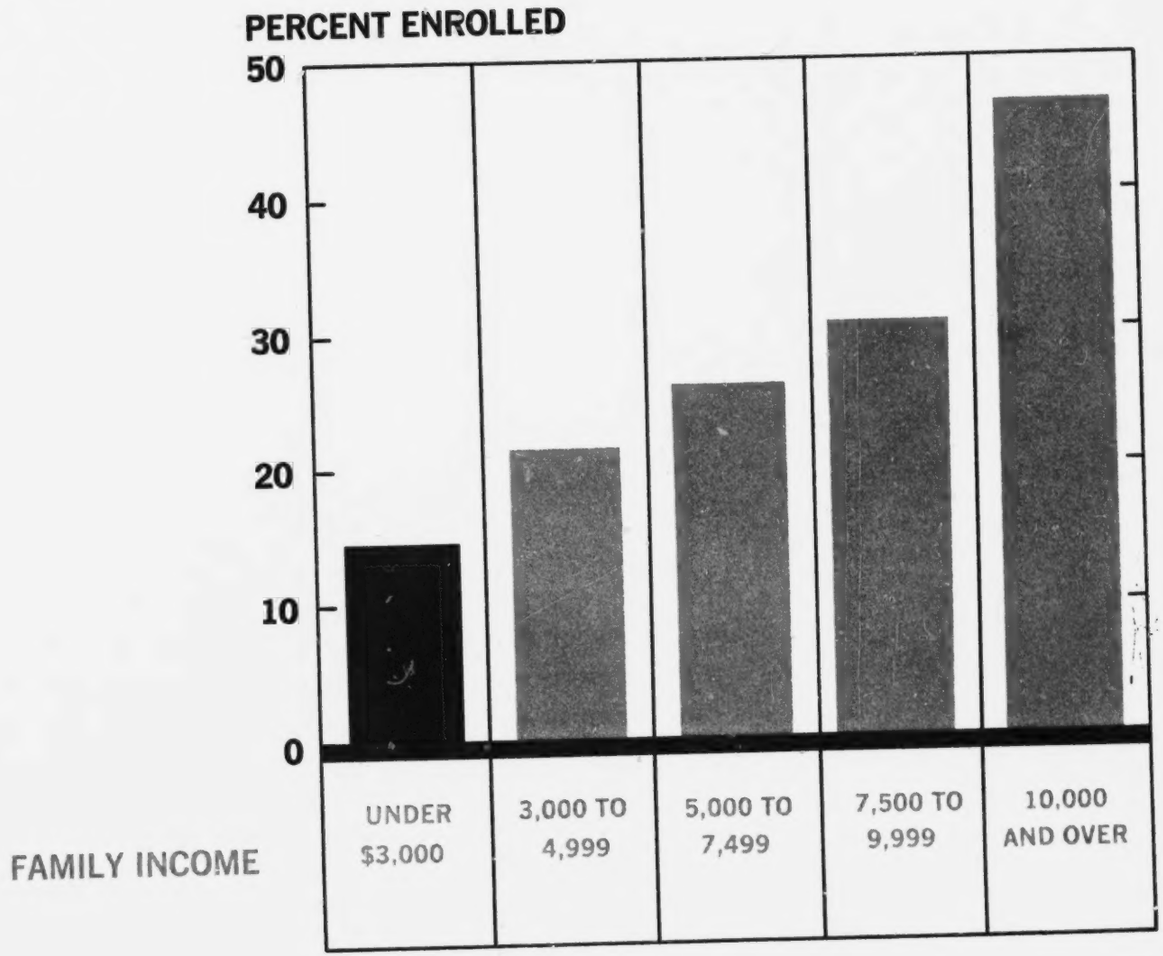
Almost everyone 7–17 years old will be in school.



The proportion of children 3–5 years old enrolled in public or private nursery schools and kindergartens in 1965 was three times as large for children in high-income families as for children in low-income families. In families with yearly incomes of $10,000 or more, almost half of the preschool children (47 percent) were enrolled in such programs. In families with incomes under $3,000, only 14 percent were enrolled. Head Start programs have probably diminished the difference to some extent since 1965, but a large gap remains. The children most likely to have learning problems in grade school and therefore most in need of preschool experience appear to be the ones least likely to get it.

CHART 25

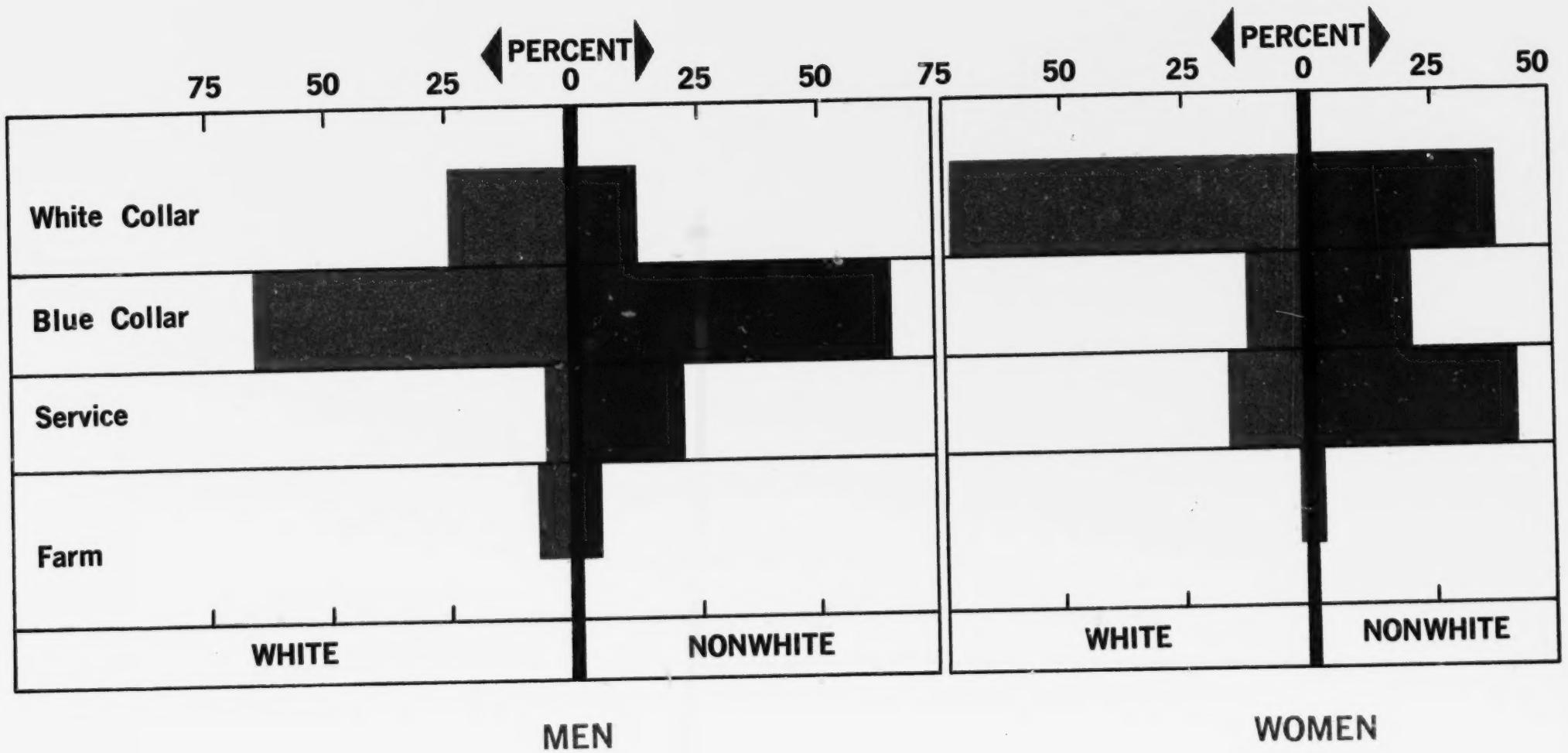
The proportion of children enrolled in preschools is lowest for low-income families.



Among employed high school graduates 21 and younger, almost two-thirds of the men are in blue-collar jobs. White-collar jobs are held by a larger proportion of women than men, and, in both sex groups, by a larger proportion of whites than nonwhites. Service jobs are held by a much larger proportion of nonwhites than of whites, and, in both color groups, by a much larger proportion of women than of men. Thus 42 percent of the nonwhite women are service workers, while 73 percent of the white women are white-collar workers.

CHART 26

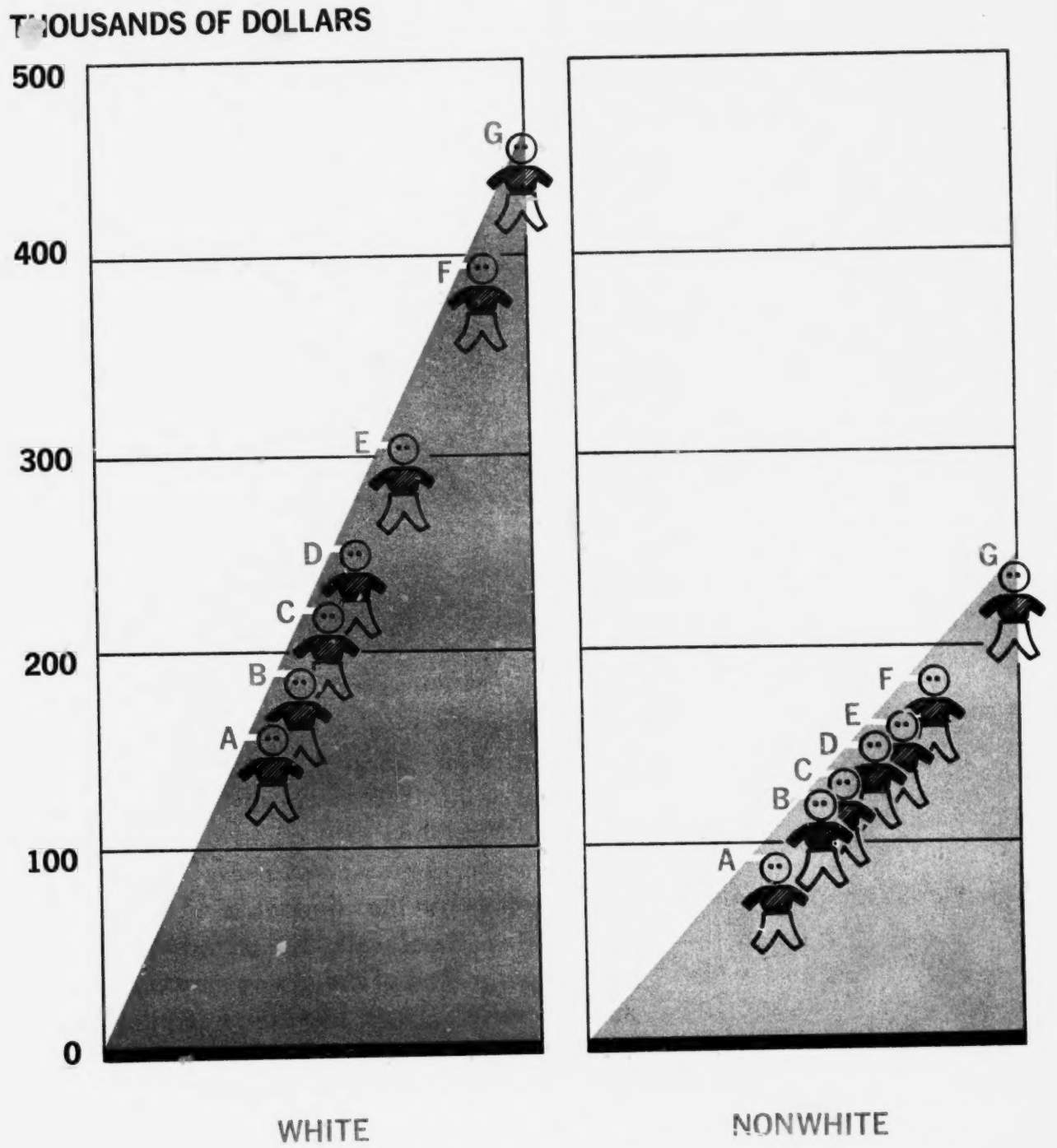
Occupations of recent high school graduates are strongly influenced by color and sex.



A white elementary school dropout will earn more in his lifetime than a nonwhite high school graduate, according to 1960 census figures. By graduating from college, a nonwhite student can expect to increase his lifetime earnings by only 23 percent over a nonwhite high school graduate, while a white college graduate earns 84 percent more than a white high school graduate. Over a lifetime, a nonwhite with 5 or more years of college will earn a little more than half of what his white educational equivalent earns.

This gap between the earning expectations of white and nonwhite students has diminished somewhat since 1960, but it is still large.

At all levels of education, lifetime earnings are higher for whites.



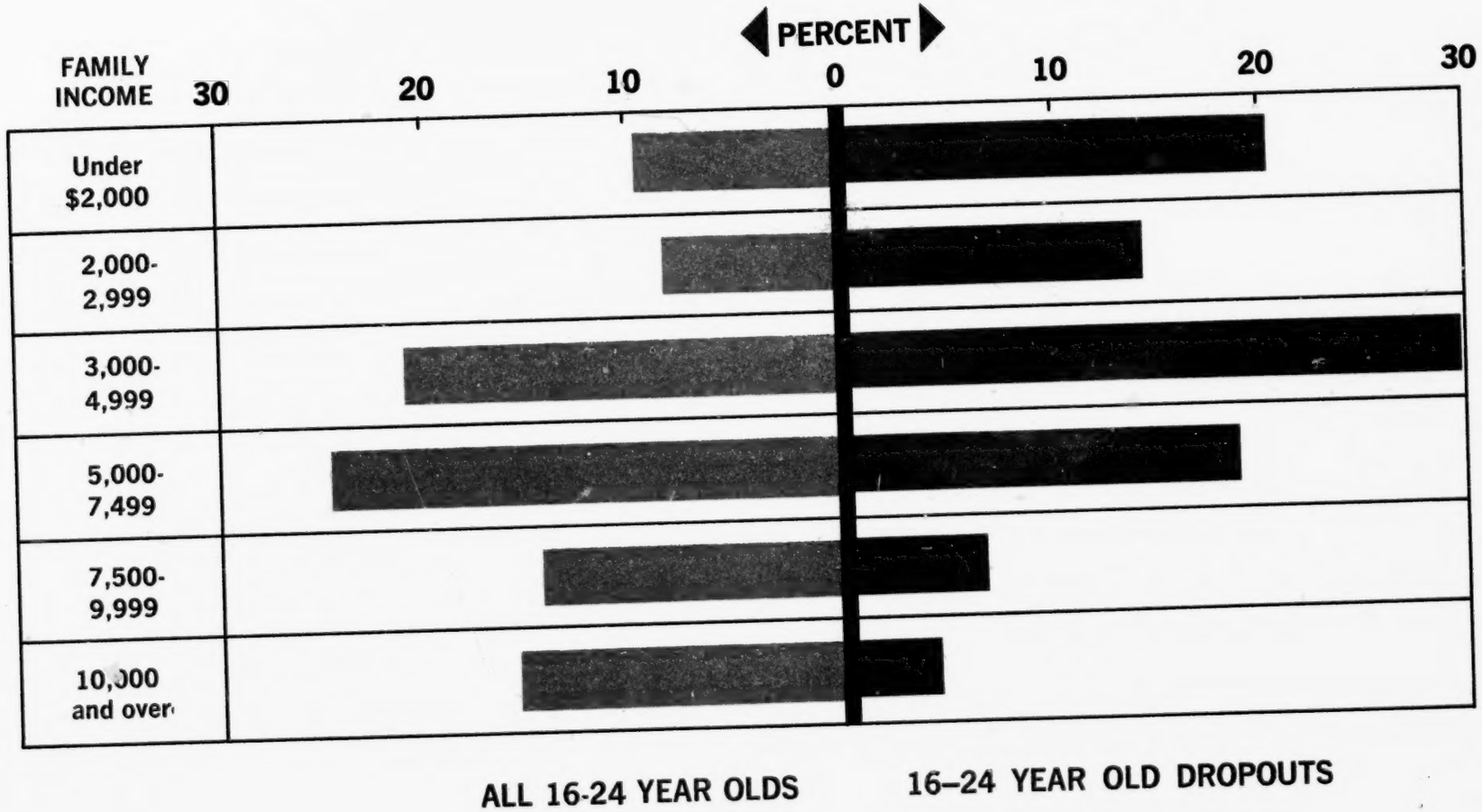
KEY: EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

A ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DROPOUT
B ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATE
C HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT
D HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE
E COLLEGE, 1-3 YEARS
F COLLEGE GRADUATE
G COLLEGE POSTGRADUATE

Almost 65 percent of high school dropouts aged 16–24 report family incomes under $5,000, although less than 40 percent of all 16–24 year olds are in such families. Fifteen percent of the total age group, but only 4 percent of the dropouts, are in families with incomes over $10,000. Over 6 percent of the 16–24 year olds did not report family income.

According to a report of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, a small, intensive survey in 1963 found that four-fifths of the dropouts were capable of high school and perhaps of post-high-school work. The records of the Armed Forces make it clear that a large proportion of the young men who fail to meet minimum standards for military service come from poor families and that a large proportion are school dropouts.

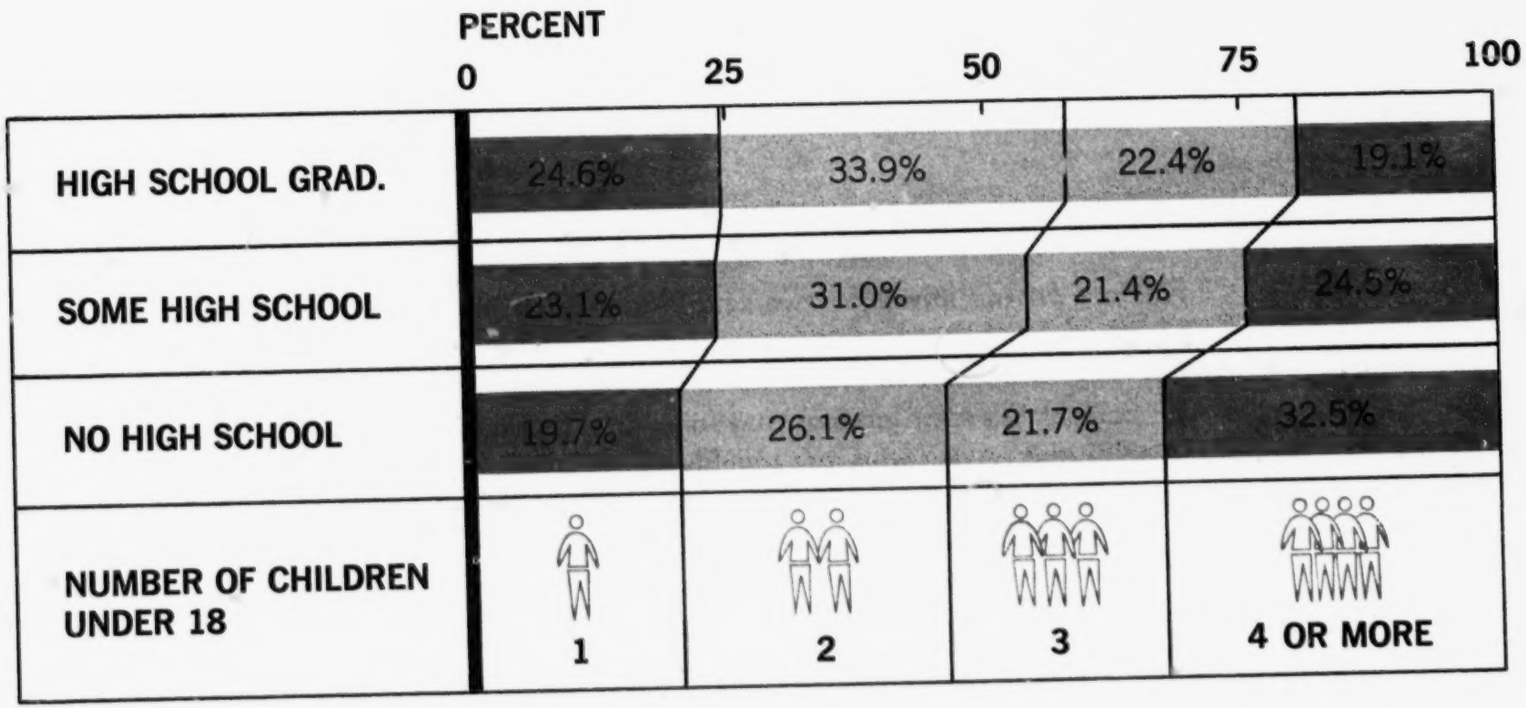
High school dropouts are more likely to come from low-income families.



Almost one-third of the families in which the father has a grade school education or less have four or more children (counting only husband-wife families with children under 18). Less than one-fifth of the fathers who are high school graduates have that many children. One-fourth of the fathers who are high school graduates have only one child, compared with one-fifth of the fathers with grade school education only. Fathers who went part way through high school fall in between these two groups in terms of family size.

Chart 12 showed that large families are often poor families. It can be added that heads of large families often have little formal education.

High school graduates have fewer children.

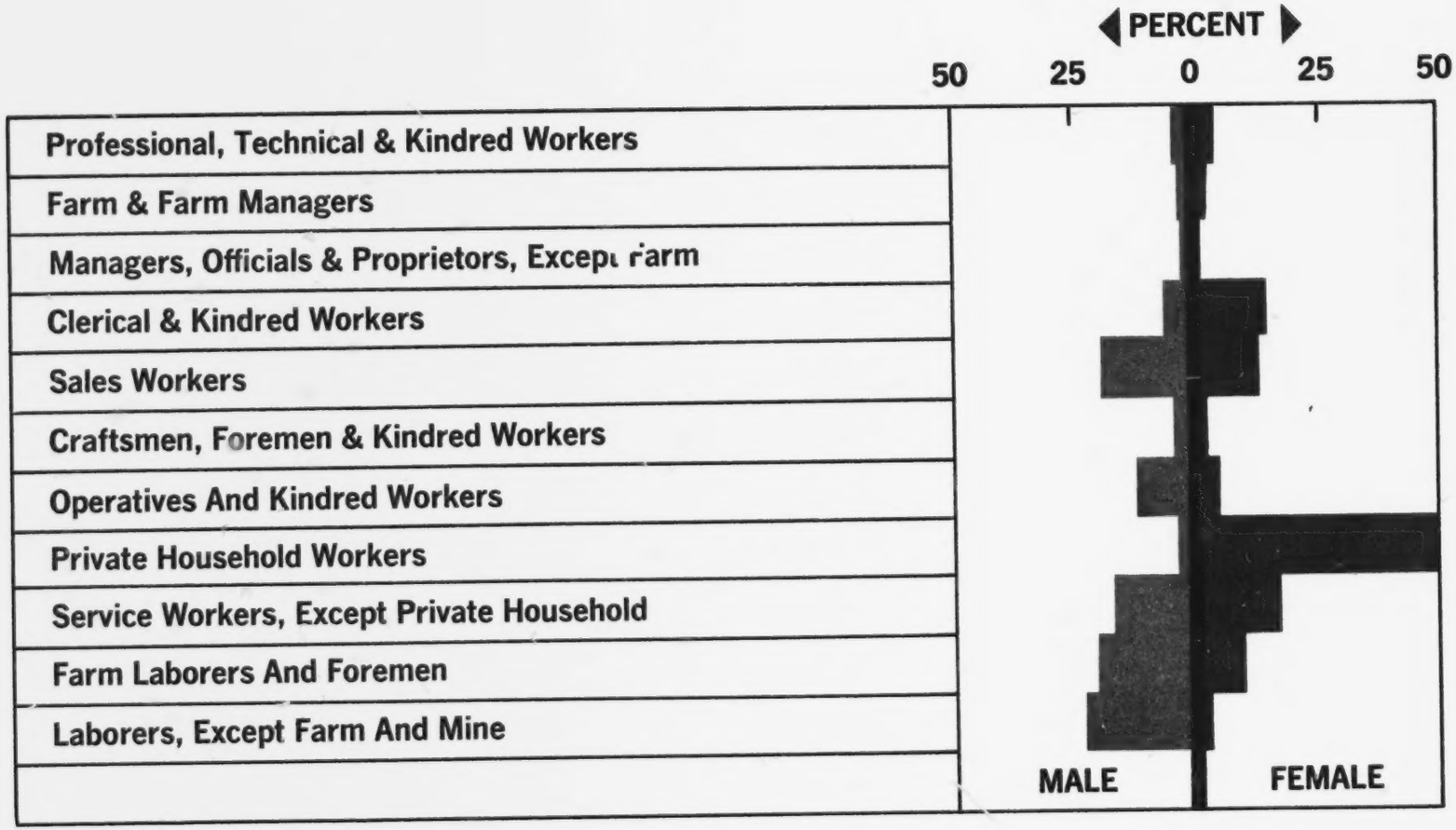


EMPLOYMENT

Of girls between the ages of 14 and 17 who are employed, almost half are private household workers. Another 16 percent are service workers of other types. The largest category (23 percent) of employed 14–17 year old boys are laborers (excludes farm laborers and mine workers). Another 20 percent are farm laborers and foremen. The proportions of boys and girls in sales and service work are roughly similar.

The number of young people who work while going to school has increased sharply. In the past two decades, the proportion of students among all young workers has doubled. These employed students include some of the 5 million students who are now enrolled in federally aided vocational classes.

Most employed teenagers have unskilled jobs.



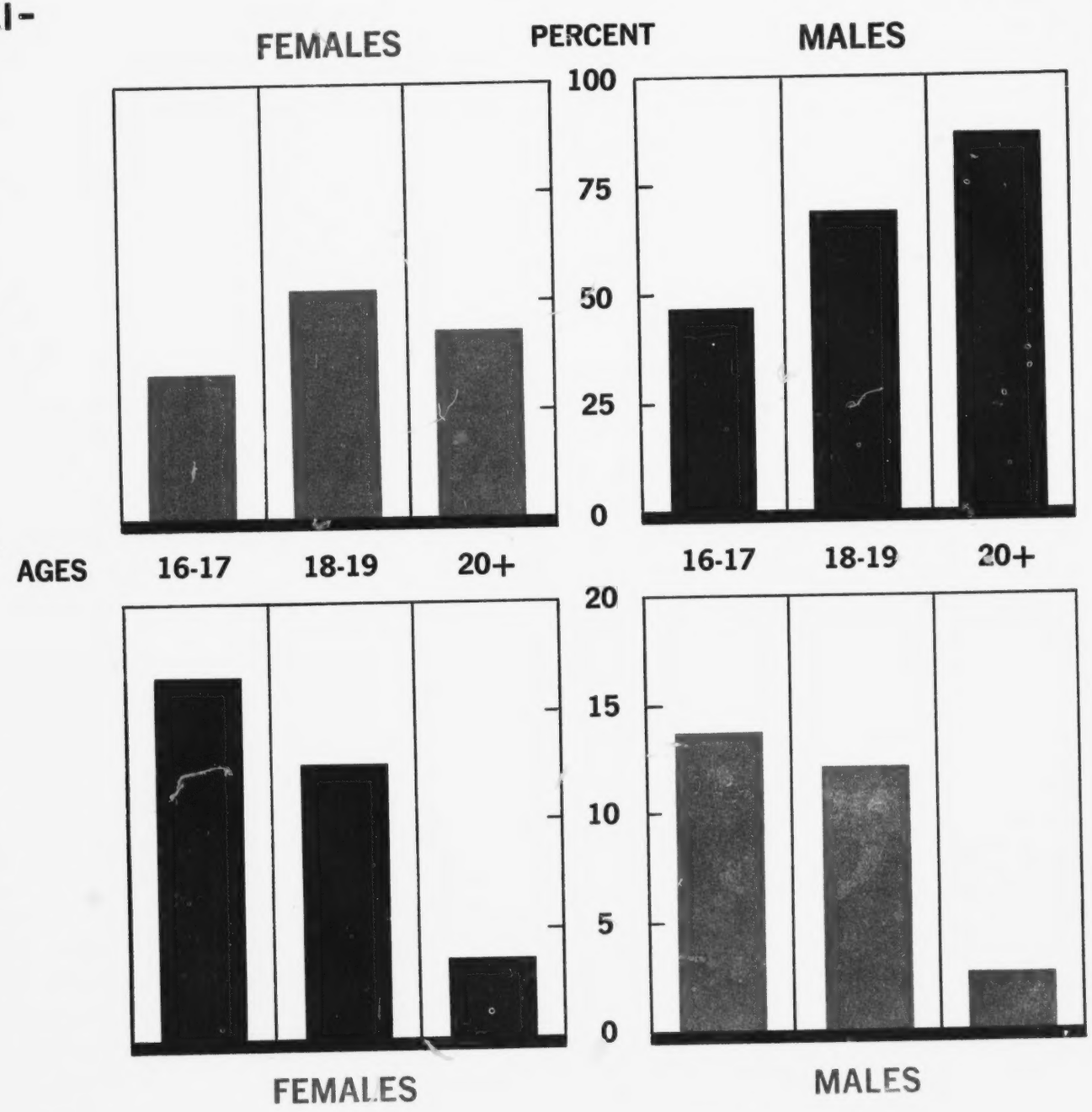
The unemployment rates for teenagers are five times as high as for others workers. For 16–17 year olds, the rate is 14 percent for boys, 17 percent for girls. The rate for workers 20 and older is under 3 percent for men and under 4 percent for women.

Labor force participation is higher for men than for women at all ages, but the unemployment rate is higher for women. Labor force participation is higher among women 18–19 years old than among women over 20.

The early years of employment are marked by a good deal of voluntary and involuntary shifting from job to job. According to a special report, half of the young workers who were employed in both 1963 and 1965 were not in the same occupation group in 1965 as in 1963. Both high school graduates and nongraduates were likely to have changed their occupation.

Labor force participation is higher for males.

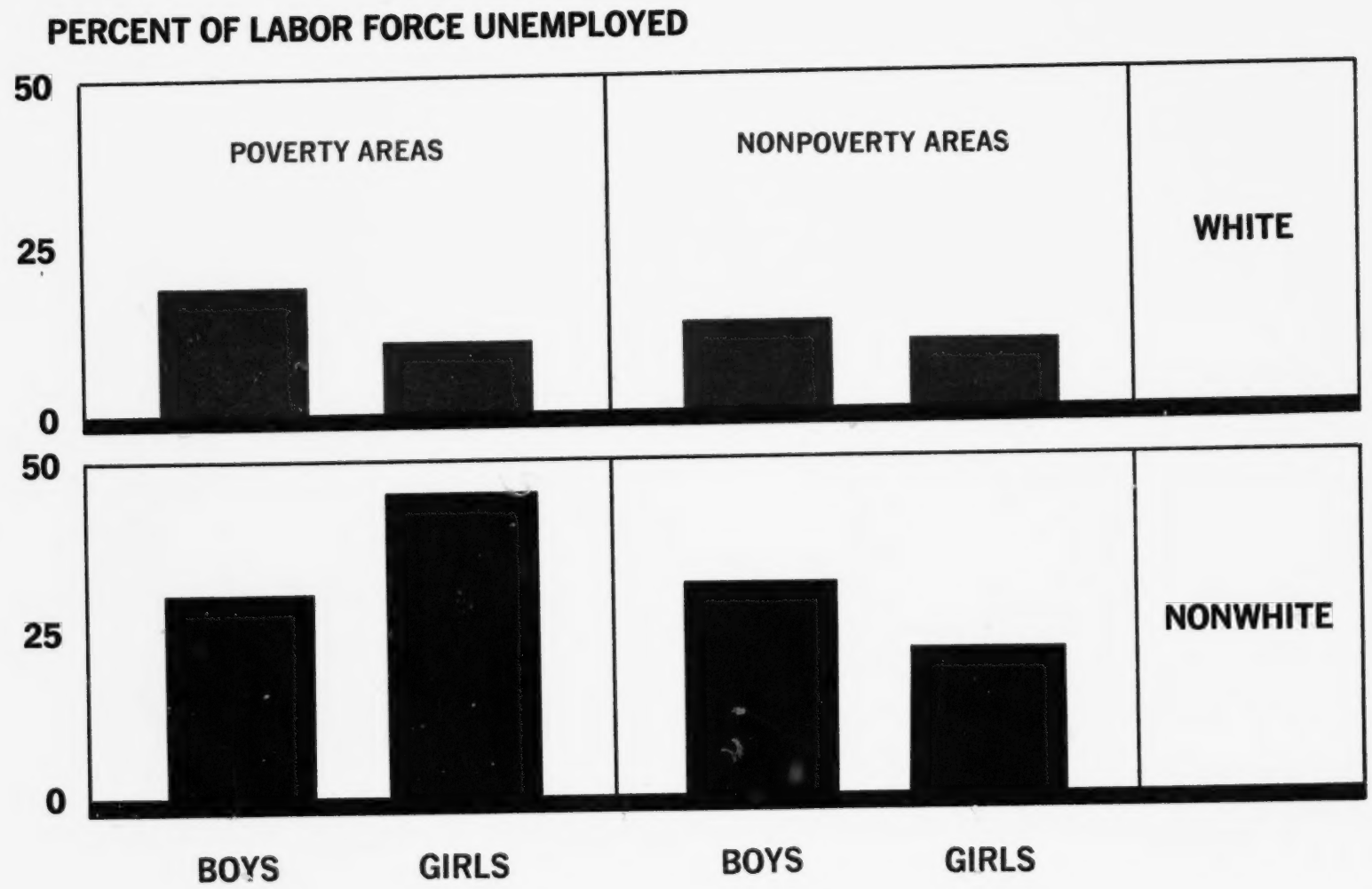
Unemployment rate is higher for females.



In poverty areas of large cities, nearly 25 percent of the youth aged 14–19 who were actively seeking work were unable to find a job in March 1966. Among Negro teenagers in those areas, nearly one-third of the boys and nearly one-half of the girls were unemployed.

Nonwhite teenage boys had a 50 percent higher unemployment rate than white teenage boys in the poverty areas and a 150 percent higher rate in the nonpoverty areas. Nonwhite girls had double the unemployment rate of white girls in nonpoverty areas and more than four times the rate in poverty areas. Nonwhites who worked had less secure, less desirable jobs.

Teenage unemployment is higher among nonwhites.

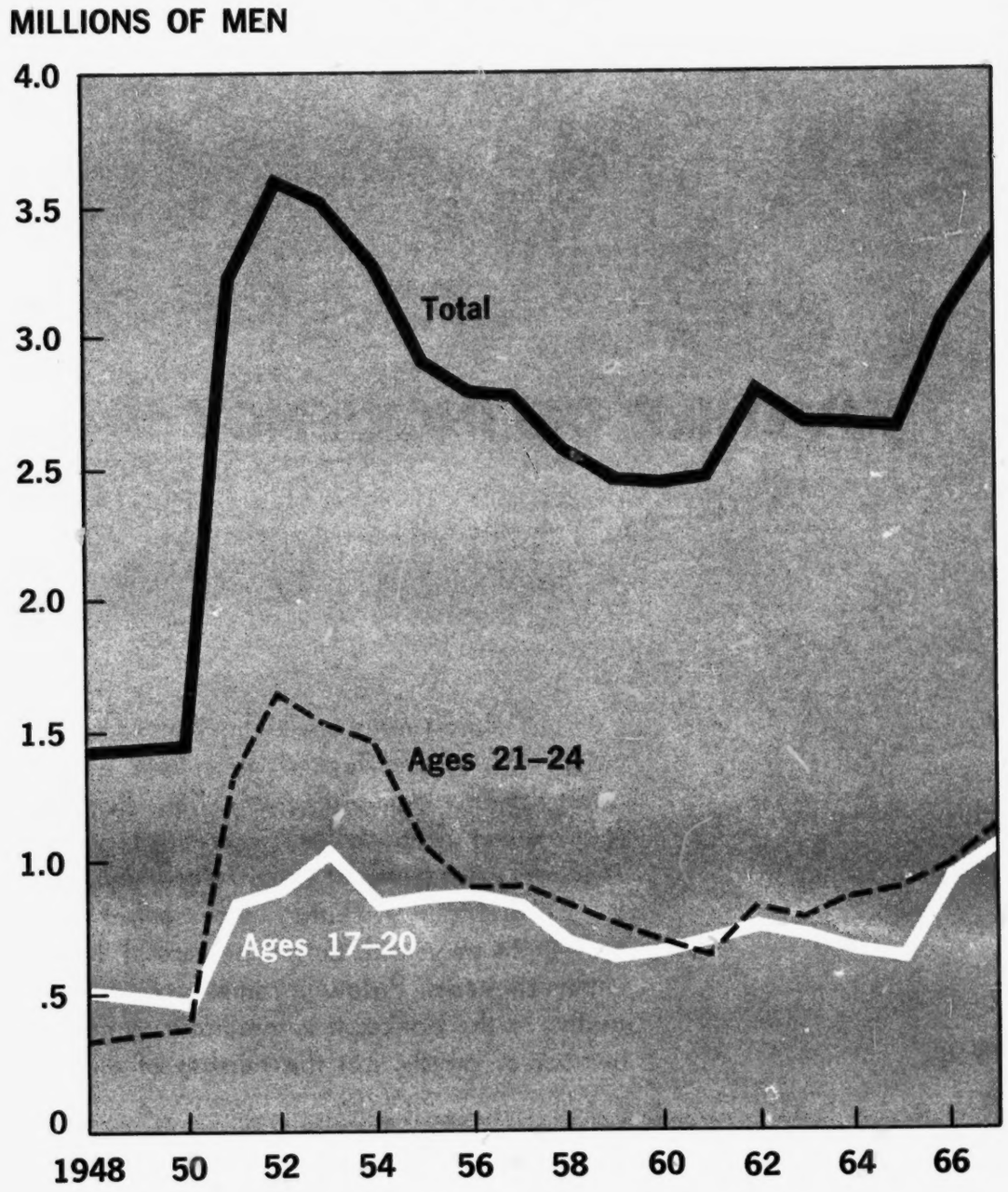


MILITARY SERVICE

Of the 3,342,000 men in the Armed Forces on June 30, 1967, over 1 million (1,038,000) were 17–20 years of age. Another 1,124,000 were 21–24 years old. The median age of male military personnel on active duty was 22.6 years.

Of the 1.6 million draftees examined for military service in 1966, 37.6 percent were disqualified for failing to meet medical, mental, or moral standards. Of the white draftees, 35.2 percent were disqualified. Among Negro draftees the disqualification rate was 57.5 percent, or 63 percent higher than for whites. Negroes constituted 11 percent of draftees in 1966, and 15 percent of draftees during July 1950–December 1966.

Over a million men under 21 are in military service.

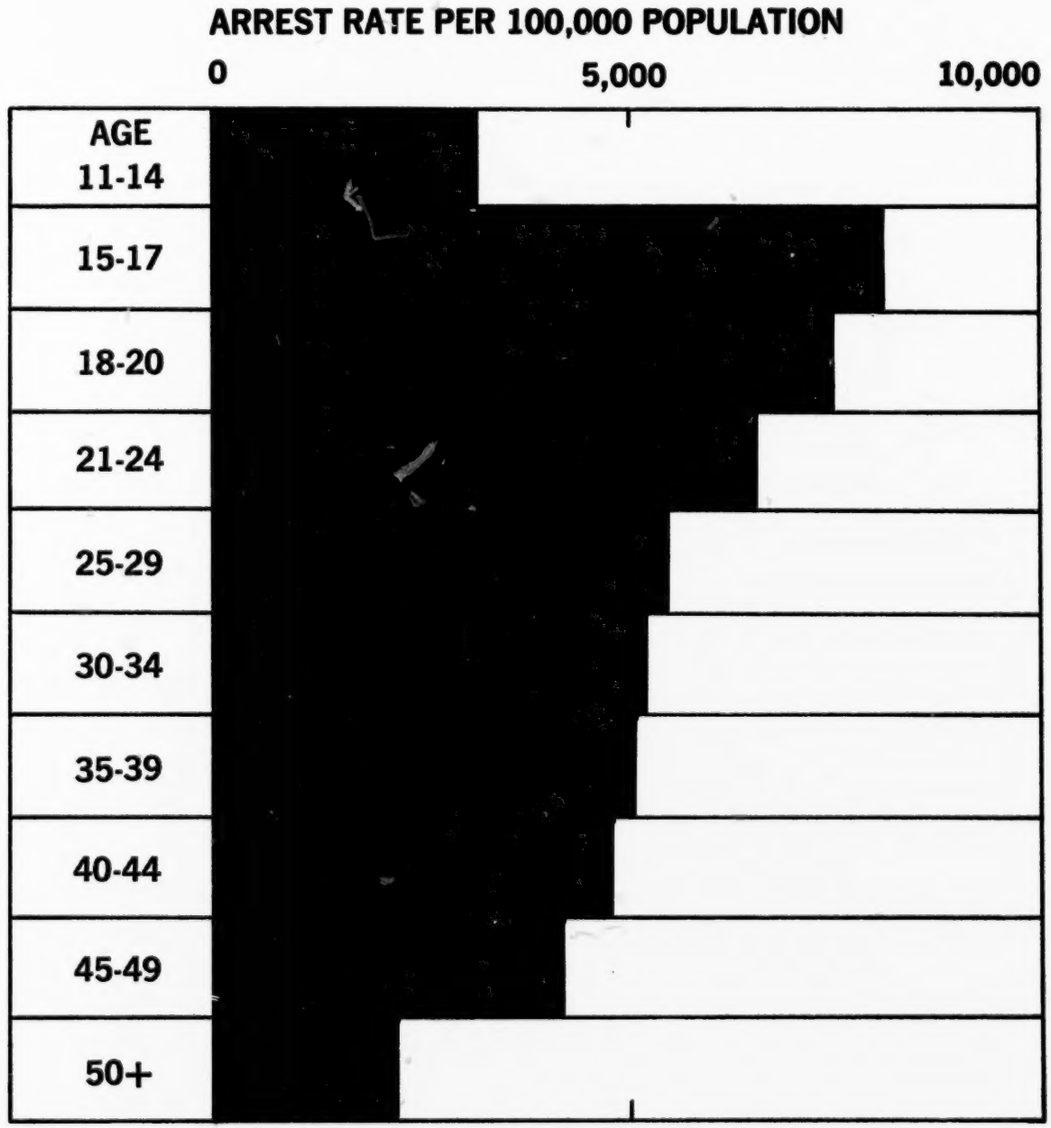


JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Arrest rates are higher for teenagers 15–17 than for any other age group. The second highest arrest rate is for the 18–20 year olds. But the arrest rates by age categories differ when offenses are classified in the Uniform Crime Reports as "crimes of violence" and "property crimes." Arrest rates for crimes of violence are highest for the age categories of 18–20, 21–24, and 25–29. Thirty-two percent of those arrested for crimes of violence are 18–24 years old. But 50 percent of those arrested for property crimes are under 18 years. Property crimes account for 87 percent of the offenses reported to the police. It is important to note that arrest statistics measure the number of arrests, not the number of criminals.

Teenagers have the highest arrest rates.

CHART 34



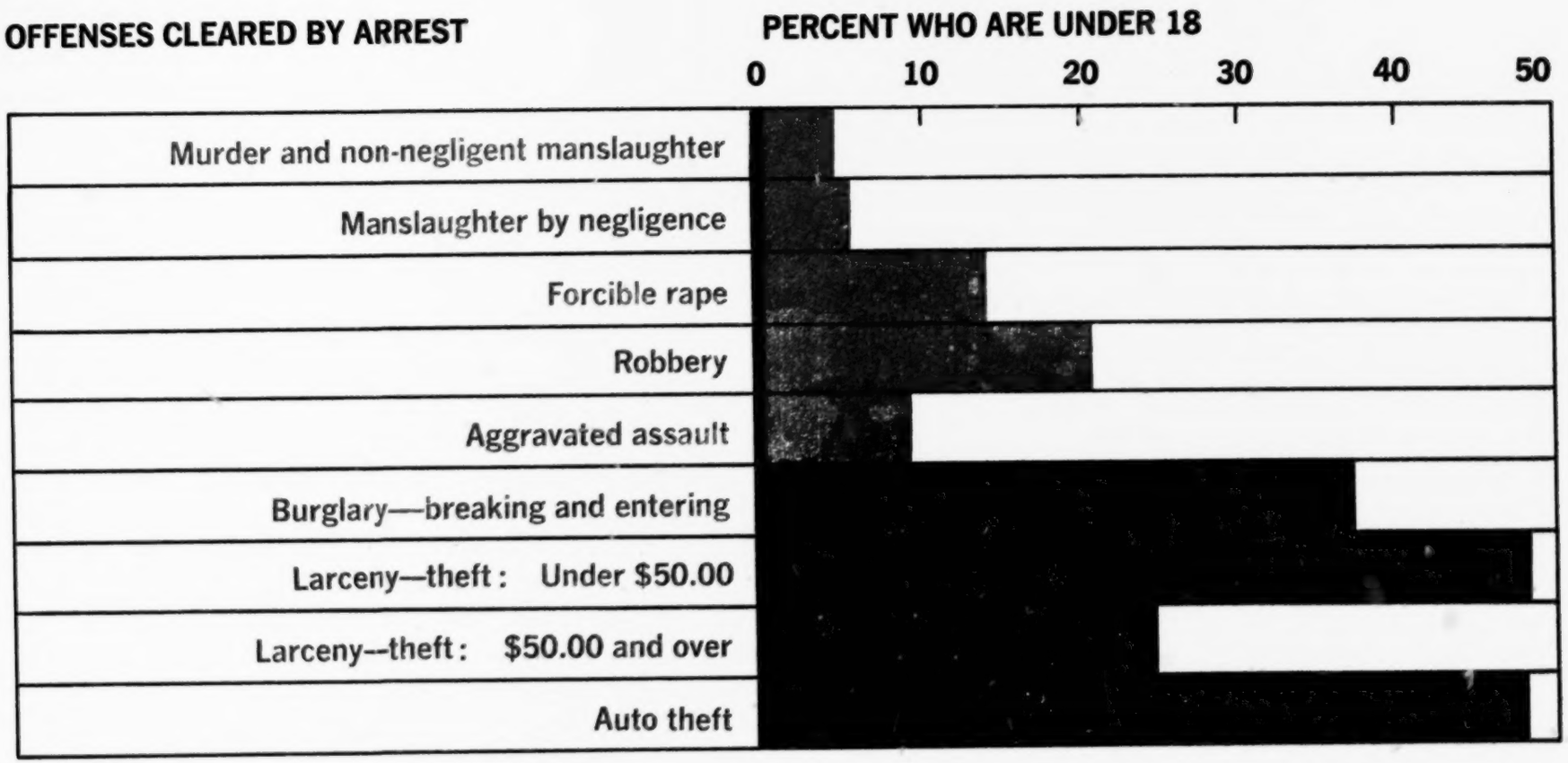
Offenses cleared by the arrest of persons under 18 are primarily offenses against property rather than people. This age group constitutes 13 percent of the total population, but accounted for 37 percent of all offenses cleared by arrests in 1965.

Youths under 18 are involved in almost half of the auto thefts cleared by arrests. Of all larceny thefts cleared by arrest, 80 percent involve less than $50, and about half of the arrests in these cases are of persons under 18. Less than a quarter of the arrests for thefts of over $50 are of persons under 18. It should be pointed out that only 20 percent of reported thefts over $50, and a much smaller proportion of those under $50, are cleared by arrest.

Among offenses against the person cleared by arrest, youths under 18 commit about 5 percent of murders and of cases of manslaughter by negligence, 14 percent of forcible rapes, 9 percent of aggravated assaults, 25 percent of robberies, and 37 percent of burglaries.

CHART 35

Teenagers commit a large proportion of property offenses cleared by arrest and a small proportion of offenses against people.



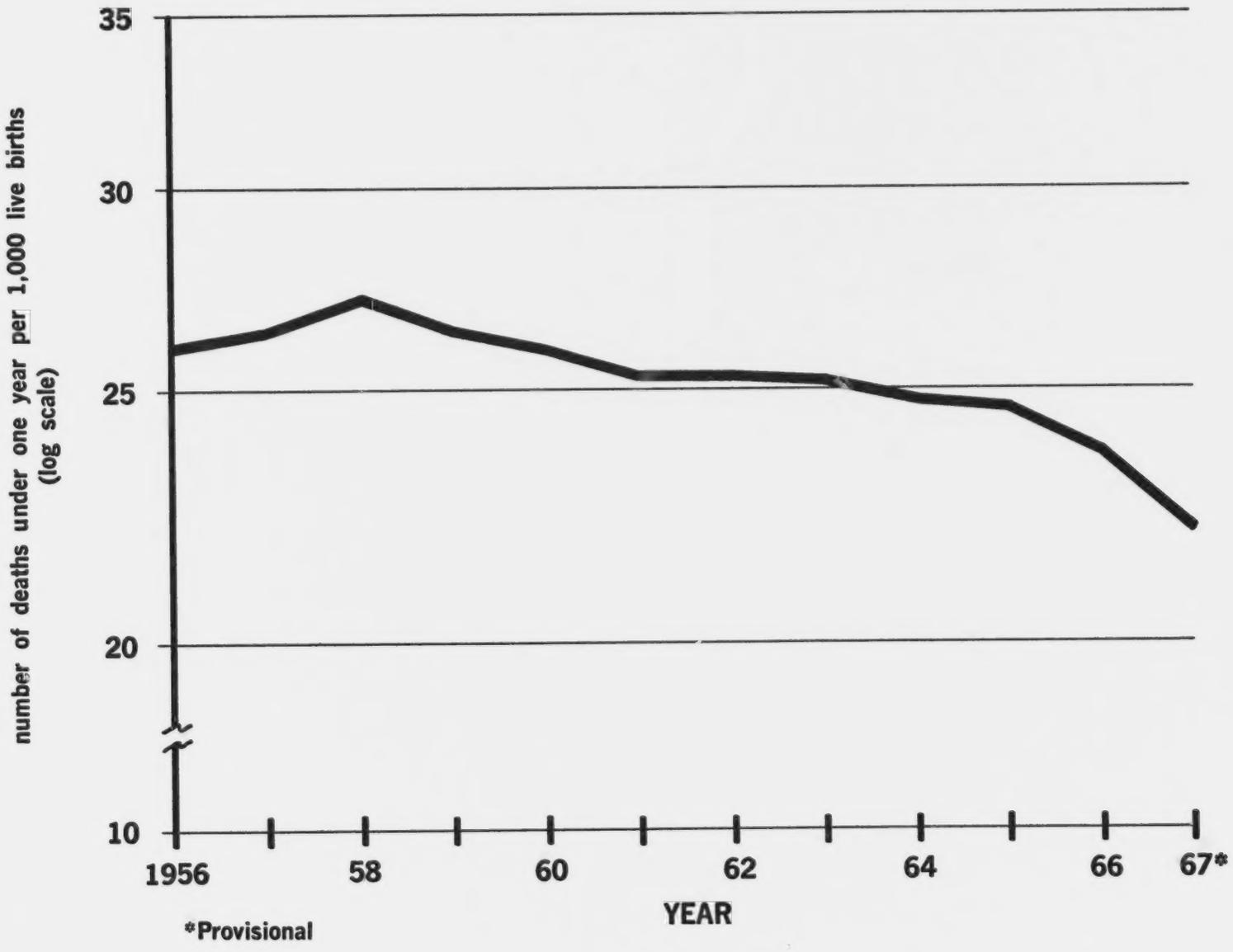
HEALTH

In the United States in 1966 there were 23.7 deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births, a rate which was 4 percent below the 1965 rate. The decrease was the largest for any year since 1954. The decrease annually during 1951–65 was less than 1 percent on the average. The accelerated pace of reduction in infant mortality appears to be continuing. The provisional rate for 1967 is 22.1, around 6 percent below the 1966 rate.

There is a large amount of local variation in the infant mortality rate. In 1966 the rate varied among the States from 18.5 to 37.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

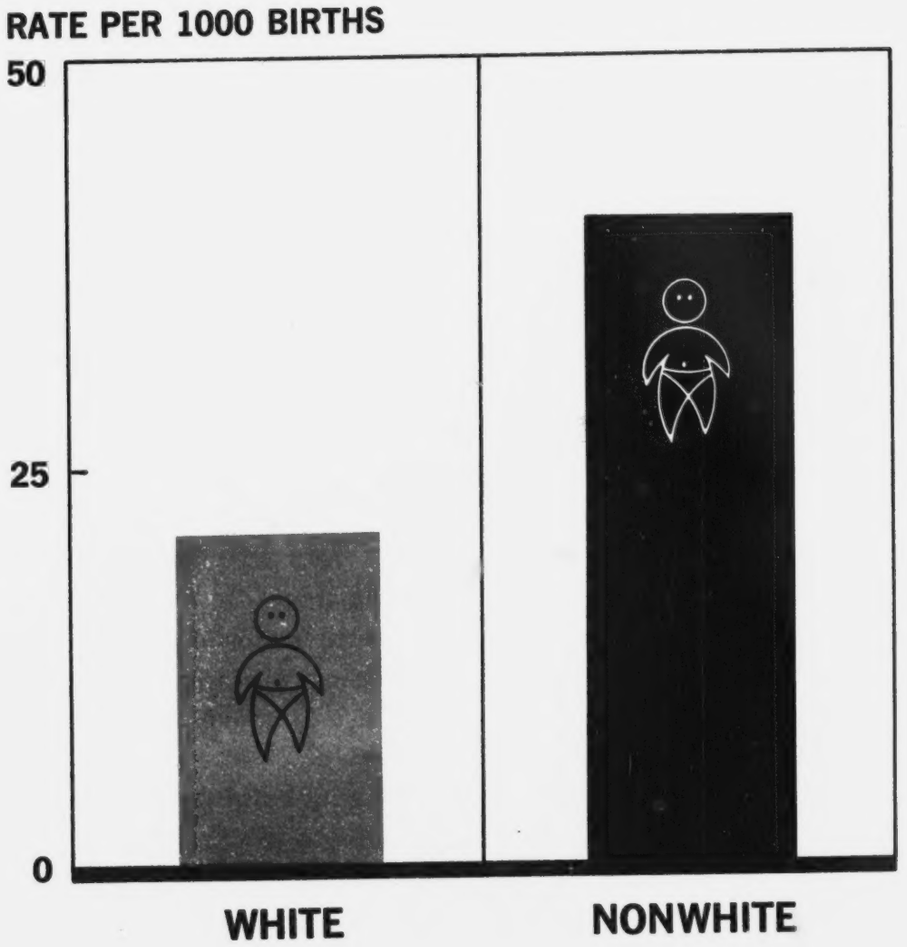
CHART 36

The U.S. infant mortality rate is dropping.



The infant mortality rate for nonwhites was 40.3 in 1965, nearly double the rate of 21.5 for whites. Numerous factors make for higher infant death rates in the nonwhite population. They are the same factors that make for high rates among the poor: premature termination of pregnancy, lack of health and medical care services, inadequate diet and health practices, and inadequate living conditions. The impact of the level of living on infant survival is illustrated by the fact that the postneonatal (age 1–11 months) death rate in the 17 States with the lowest per capita income was over a third above the national average in 1965.

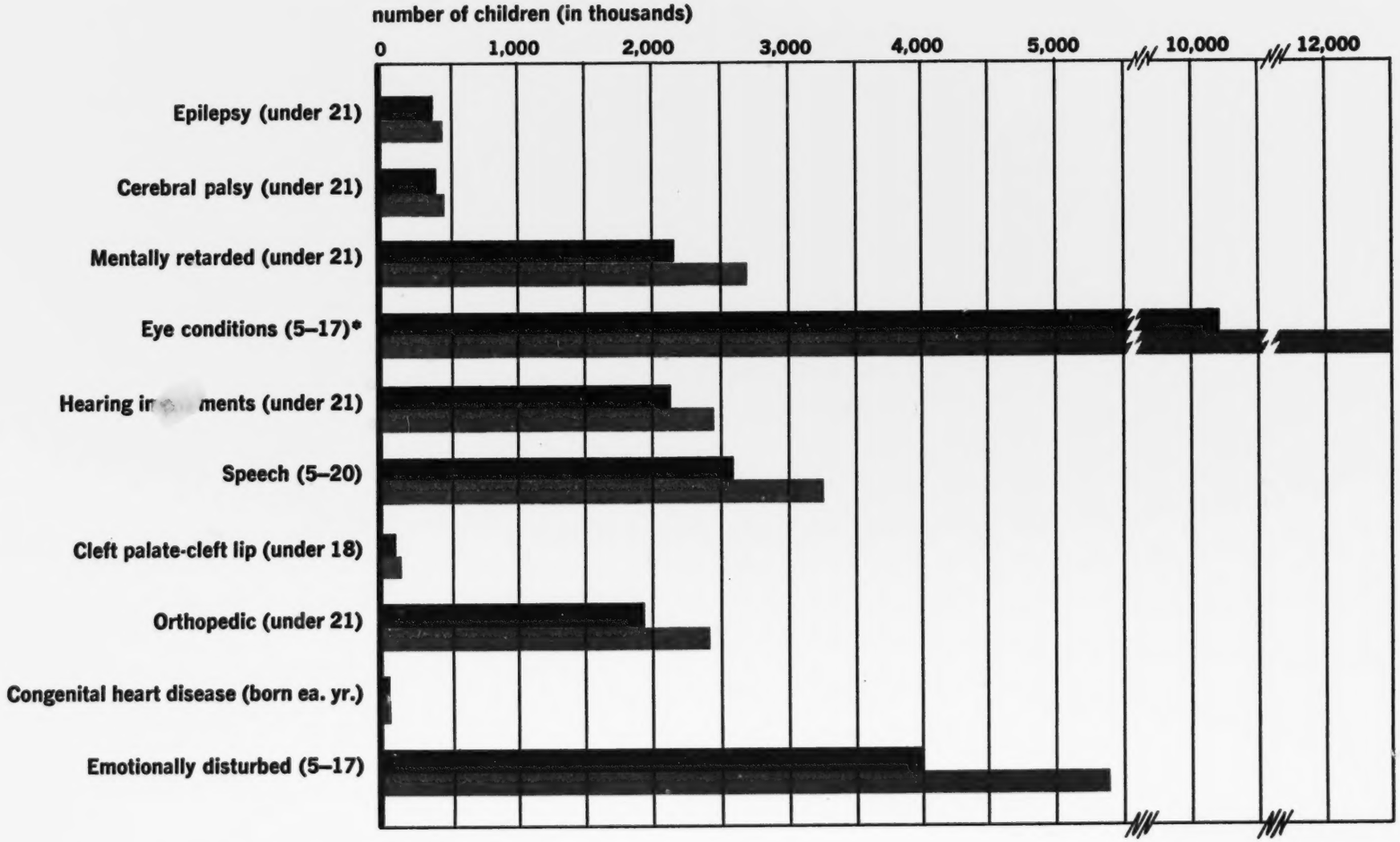
Infant mortality is almost twice as high for nonwhites.



Precise figures are not available on how many handicapped children there are in this country. From a review of surveys of various sizes and some variation in definitions, the Children's Bureau has estimated the prevalence of certain conditions in 1960, and in 1970 should levels of incidence continue unchanged. The figures shown are indicative of the large numbers of children in our population who have handicapping conditions. By education standards, it is usually estimated that about 12 percent of children of school age are in need of special education because of handicapping conditions.

Many millions of children have handicaps.

CHART 38



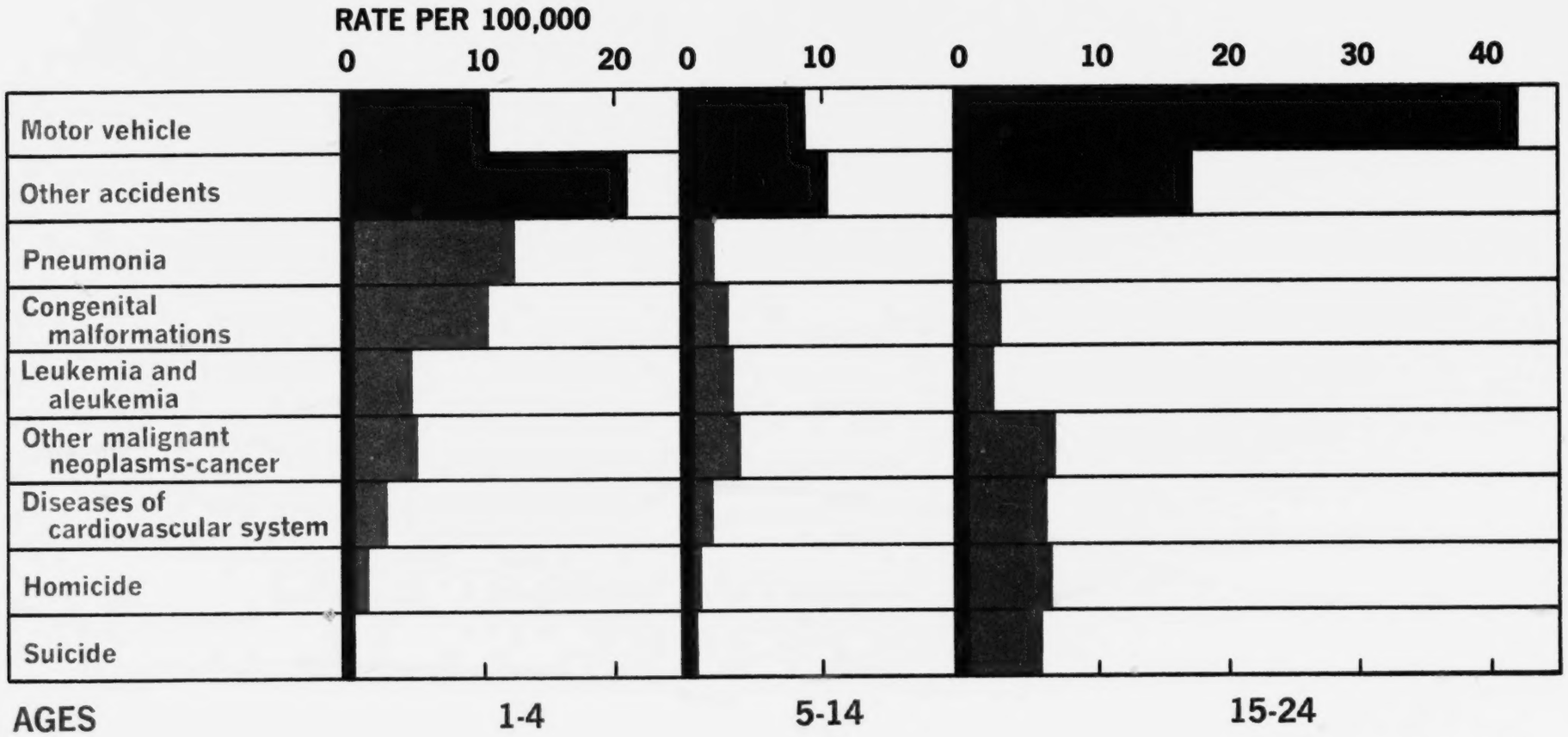
*needing specialist care including refractive errors.

Among young people 15–24 years of age, the leading cause of death is accidents. Motor vehicle accidents kill 42 out of 100,000 young people and all other accidents kill 17 out of 100,000.

For very young children (1 to 4 years), the leading killers are accidents other than motor vehicle accidents (21 out of 100,000), and pneumonia (over 12 out of 100,000). Congenital malformations and motor vehicle accidents each take the lives of 10 out of 100,000 children aged 1–4.

In the 15–24 age group, malignant neoplasms (principally cancer), homicide, diseases of the cardiovascular system, and suicide each cause the deaths of 6 or more per 100,000.

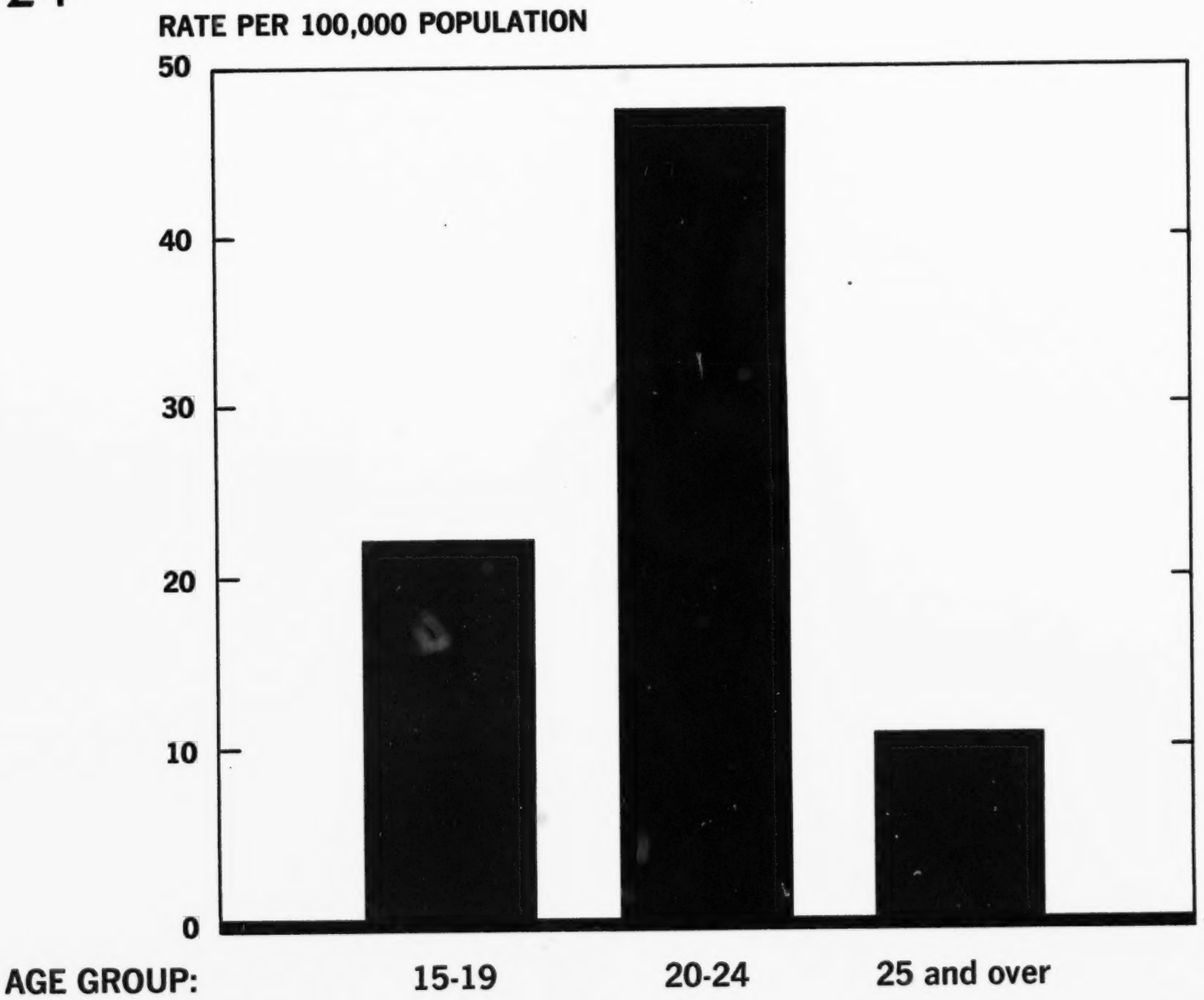
Accidents are leading killers of youths.



The syphilis rate for 1966 was 48 per 100,000 in the 20–24 age group and 22 per 100,000 in the 15–19 age group. 1966 marks a decrease in syphilis for the first time in a decade. Still, the total remains three times the number of cases reported in 1958.

This health menace is controllable. Following World War II, an aggressive VD control program over a 10-year period, from 1945 to 1955, reduced the number of reported syphilis cases by more than half.

Syphilis is highest among 20–24 year olds.

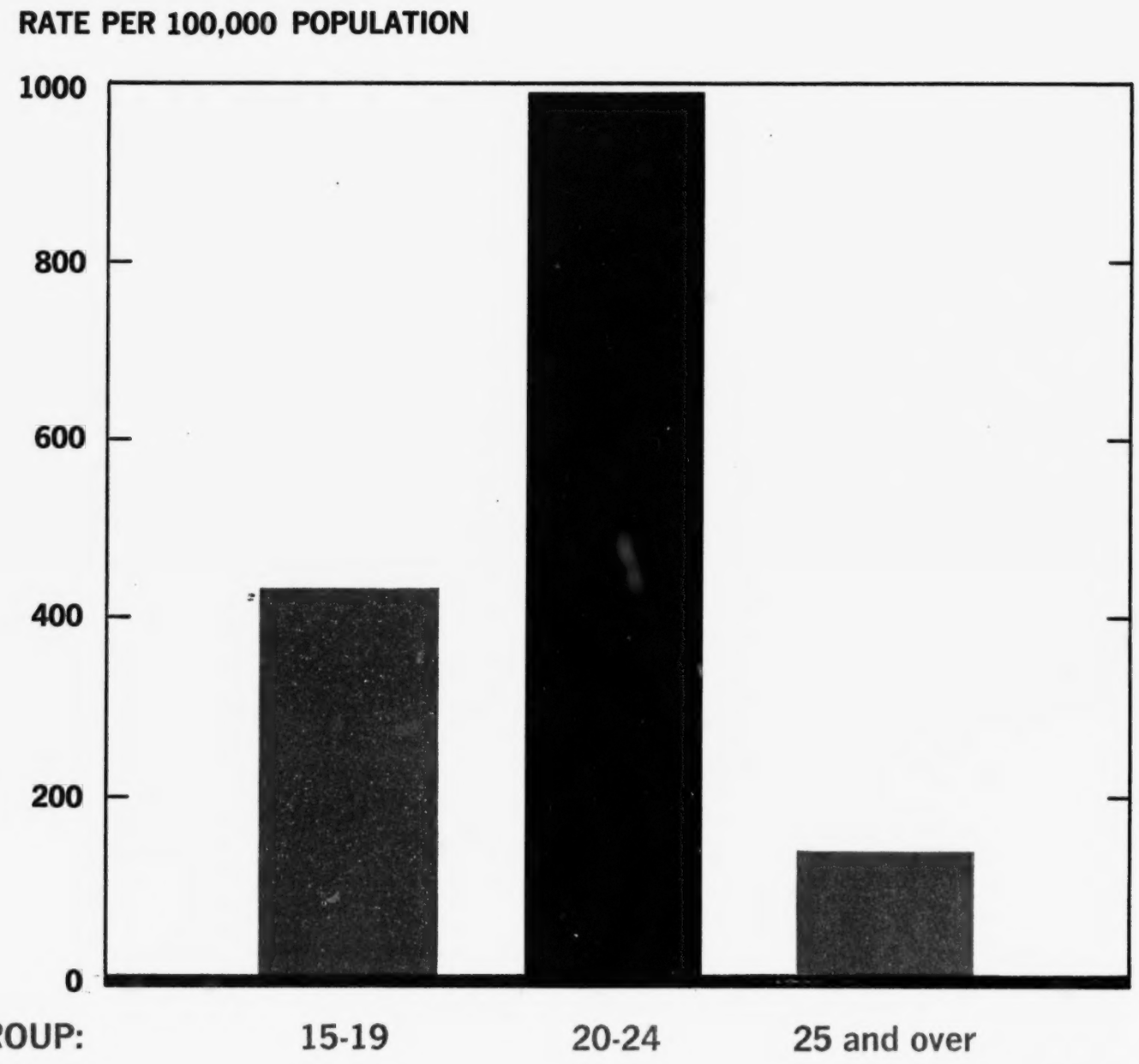


Nearly 1 percent of all 20–24 year olds have gonorrhea. Youth 15–19 years old are three times as likely to have the disease as persons over 25 years old.

Almost one-third of all reported cases of gonorrhea in 1966 were in the 20–24 age group—126,339 cases. The total number of cases for all ages was 351,738. The gonorrhea rate is 181.6 cases per 100,000 total population. In the 15–19 age group there were 76,032 cases or a rate of 436.1.

Gonorrhea rates vary by State, as do the health resources for identification and treatment. Among the States, the lowest reported rate for the 15–19 age group was 63.1 and the highest rate was 4,636.5 in 1965. During 1966, when syphilis decreased, gonorrhea made its highest jump (8 percent) in a decade.

Gonorrhea is also highest among 20–24 year olds.



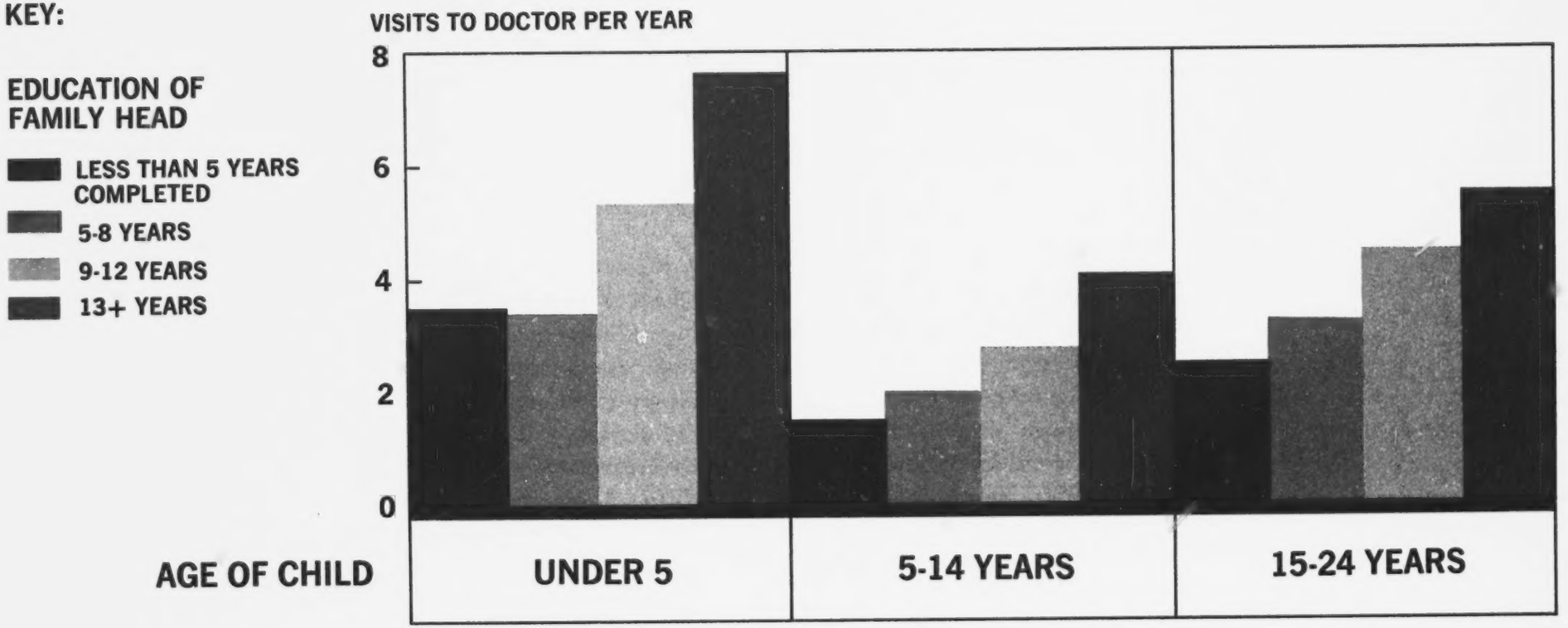
Children in families headed by a person with more than 12 years' education visit the doctor more than twice as often, at any age, as children whose family head has less than 5 years' education.

Children under 14 in families with incomes $10,000 and over visit doctors 2½–3 times as frequently as those in families with incomes $2,000 and under. For the 15–24 age group there is no difference by income category evident in the number of doctors' visits.

The under-5 and 15–24 age groups are provided more medical care than children 5–14 years of age; this is true regardless of the education or income of the head of the family.

A 1966 study of 165 enrollees in the Neighborhood Youth Corps found that the majority of the youth examined (ages 15–22 years) were in need of medical or dental services or both.

Frequency of doctor's visits is closely related to education of family head.

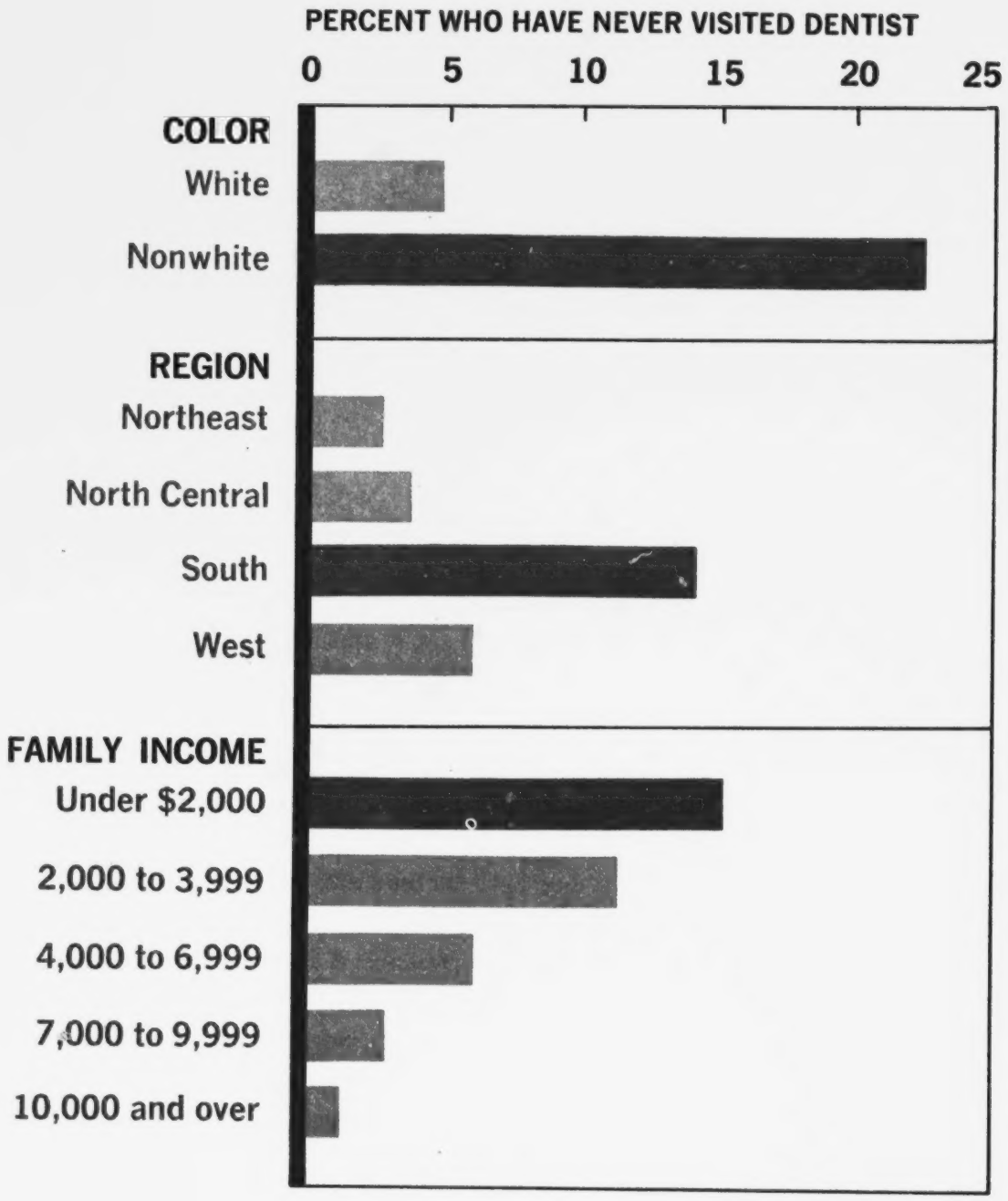


Eighty-six percent of white and 94 percent of nonwhite children under age 5 have never visited a dentist. In the age group of 5–14 years, 80 percent of the whites but only 46 percent of nonwhites have had some dental care. One major study found that the average number of carious teeth per child was 10.65 at age 15. For the age 15–24 group, 95 percent of the whites and 77 percent of nonwhites have been to the dentist.

Dental care bears a relation to family income. In families with income under $2,000, 58 percent of children aged 5 to 14 years had not been to a dentist, but for the identical age group in families with income $10,000 and over, only 6 percent had not been to a dentist.

CHART 43

Proportion of youth 15–24 who have never visited a dentist is related to color, region, and income.



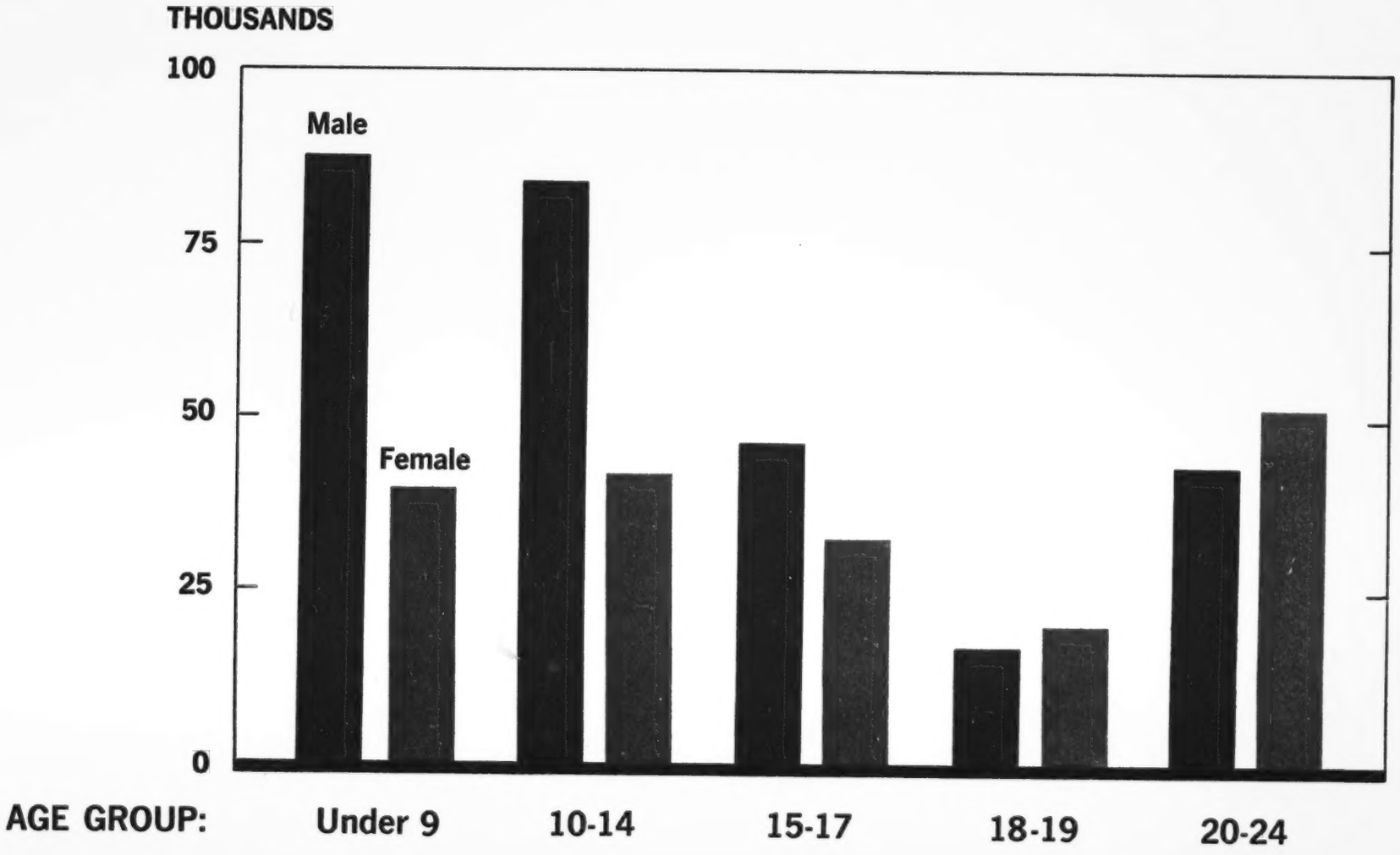
Of the 990,000 persons served in outpatient clinics during 1964, 350,000 were under 20 years of age.

Among patients under age 14, there were twice as many boys as girls. The male-female balance begins to shift with youth 15–17 years old. Males comprise 59 percent of this age group. In the 18–19 and 20–24 age groups, females account for 54 percent of the patients.

In 1965, persons 24 years and younger made up 21 percent of first admissions to State and county mental hospitals. Roughly six times as many persons 15–24 years of age were admitted as those 15 years and younger. In both age groups there were more males than females. Although the 15 and younger age group represents a relatively small proportion of admissions, the number and the rate per 100,000 have been increasing for a number of years.

One-third of the patients of outpatient psychiatric clinics are under 20.

CHART 44



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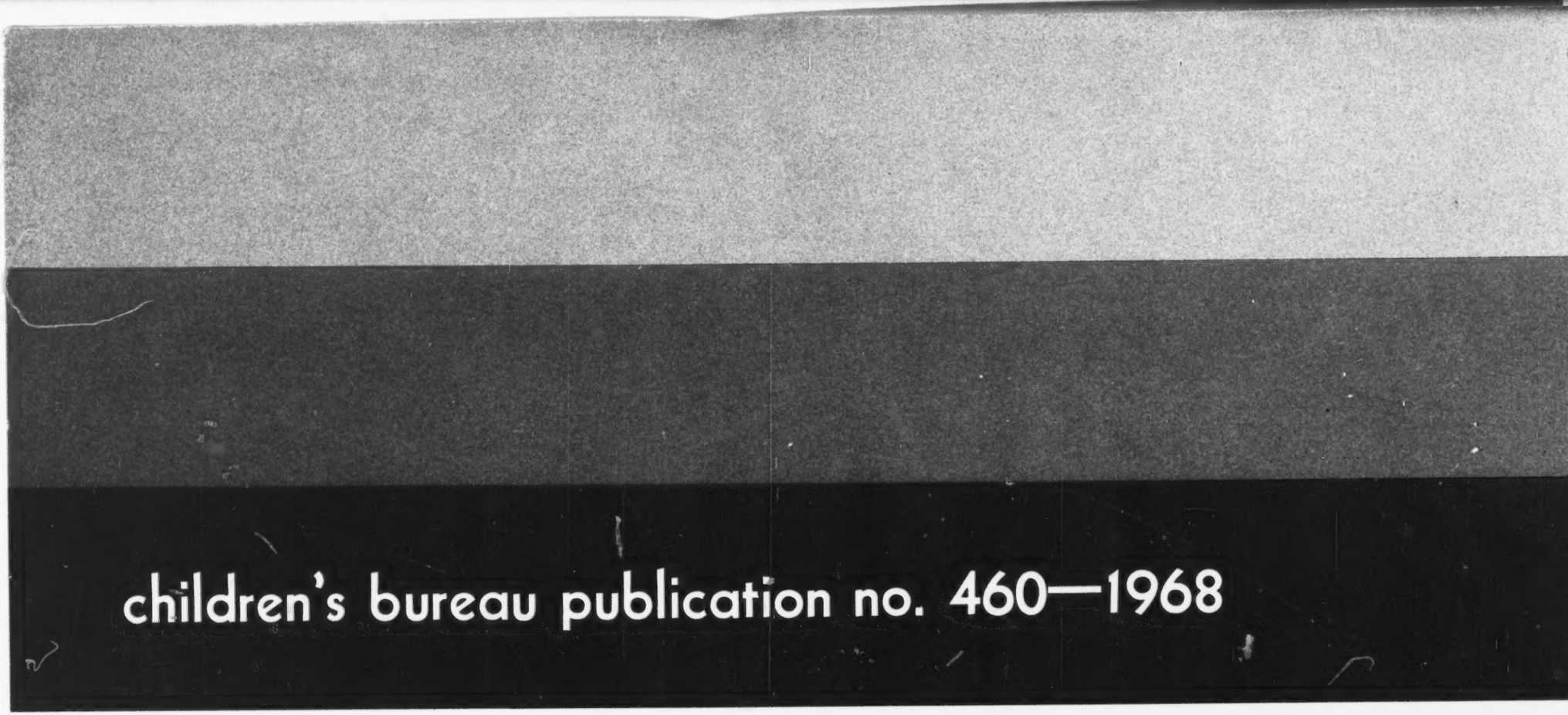

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